

THE
LETTERS
OF
LADY RACHEL RUSSELL.
FROM THE
ORIGINALS AT WOBURN ABBEY.

VOL. II.

MDCCCXXV.

C. & C. WHITTINGHAM, Chiswick.

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OF
LADY RUSSELL.
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LADY RACHEL RUSSELL'S LETTERS.

LXXVIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

TRULY, good doctor, you are very condescending, to take my pretending to advise in so good part; I thought I had a good assurance you would do so, or I should not have been so free, being nobody abounds less in their own sense than I believe I do; but where I wish well, and suppose it will be well taken, I speak freely. I was not apt to think you ever were vain or lavish in your own layings out, only, perhaps, not restraining enough in very allowable expenses; nay commendable ones in another age; but the prospect at home called upon us to provide: yet, while I am reflecting thus wisely, I feel who wants severe reproof, and cannot draw up so unblamable a particular as you have taken the pains to do; but however it is, we can only do our best for the time to come; and I pray God to put the same earnest care into the hearts of all the people of this nation. There is no time so hazardous but the righteous and the repentant may run unto him and be safe; and if we must not escape the judgments of the sword, yet I trust it shall cut off only such as

most notoriously cumber God's ground: and that in the midst of wrath He will remember mercy, if we will but meet him in his judgments, as miserable sinners ought to do; and as I question not but numbers in this land do.

It was surprising to hear of the princess's absenting herself*, but one hears every day so much, which is so, that unless one would write a volume, it is not easy to enter on the subject of news; and yet it being more difficult to rest on any other, I will conclude this from

Your ever affectionate friend and servant.

30 November, 1688.

LXXIX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I wish you prosperous, good doctor, in your new economy, and hope it is so far off being too late, that it is too early to begin, more than is very decently prudent; since, I trust, we have some reasonable prospect to believe such as you yourself may live, and enjoy what is their own.

So great a change has appeared in the space of one month. May the great Dispensator of all these wonderful events dispose our hearts and minds, and direct them to a right use of so much mercy; and let it be his will to perfect the work he has to do among us, to the comfort of every serious and thoughtful Christian. It is a time, I confess, one would be very glad to spend some hours in free discourse with a friend

* Princess Anne went away Nov. 25.

there is no need to disguise any thought before; when it is denied, one must be content as one can.

I think, having stayed so long in the country, in the hurlyburly, we shall try it a little longer. The carriers and coachmen that come from the North, inform us many gentlemen in the North are in arms, all horse; that in Yorkshire they may have 10,000 as soon as they please; but they refuse all except horse; and that many Papists were got into Hull. This night's letters signify the surprising of that place, and declaring for a free Parliament*.

I am, sir, and ever to continue such,

Your faithful friend and servant.

8 December, 1688.

We have now got Gazettes again, so have sent them; though you hear too much, perhaps, to read where you are.

LXXX.

TO (*supposed*) DR. BURNET.

BECAUSE I think I cannot be deceived, when I persuade myself that my writing a few lines, to bear a testimony of my grateful remembrance, and faithful respects, will not be tedious to you, I choose to send it, as often as I can find ways to the†; nay, I have, I may say, created this, since the bearer of it

* The Earl of Danby made himself master of York; Colonel Copley surprised Hull, and seized Lord Langdale, the governor, a Roman Catholic; Lord Delamere did good service in the North; the Earl of Devonshire at Derby. York and Berwick declared for a free parliament.

† Words omitted.

has no other errand than to carry this paper, and return charged, I hope, with such good reports as every good soul wishes for. Curiosity may be too eager, and therefore not to be justified, but sure it is unavoidable.

I do not ask you should satisfy any part of it, further than you can in six lines; but I would see something of your handwriting upon English ground, and not read in print only, the labour of your brain. Here has of late been some sheets laid to your charge, (as*) and so much justice you receive, that the world never lays a dull one upon you. I will consider the compass of a letter is too narrow to contain all I could find to say to you; and you are too busy to urge such an employment, as reading my epistles on you.

I have pleased myself; and now I will retire to such contemplations as the wondrous Providence of every day furnishes to all thinking creatures.

May our hearts and minds be directed to a due use of them, and ever full of praise to God, and prayers for the visible Mover, that causes so mighty a revolution as we see; and how much greater is it like to be if they go on blessed, and carry the cause they so gloriously manage with a happy success.

December 8, 1688.

LXXXI.

LADY RUSSELL TO * * * *.

THE suspense we have been under was very tedious; I every day hoped you would have found some way

* Words omitted.

or other to let me hear from the quarters you are in, but I believe a prudent caution has kept me ignorant.

I am certain my best wishes have attended him you went away with from hence; and, as I apprehend, he has been prosperous to his desires, and I hope he will ever be so. If I could see how I could do more than wish or pray for it, I would readily make it appear how faithfully I would serve him and his interests.

What you may write or tell the messenger who brings you this, will be very acceptable; and much more to see you, and lead you the three mile walk, which I would walk again upon that condition, though I have not done it since I walked it with you. I suppose you are at all times better employed than you will be in reading this paper; for your ease, not my own, I close it from

Yours, &c.

8 December, 1688.

LXXXII.

TO (*supposed*) DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THERE needs no art to engage your belief of so sincere a truth, as I am going to write to you; that since I purposely read the last verse of the 73d Psalm, I have had more mind to scribble a few lines to you than I ever had in my life: not from any hope I have to speak any thing will please me; my thoughts are too much crowded to get a passage to express what I feel. My religion and my country are dear to me, and my own hard fate will ever be as a green wound. I need say no more to you. I have been but too im-

patient to say so much. I have fancied it a sort of guilt not to do it, and a want of ingenuity not to find an opportunity; yet I met it not till now. If I had writ two months ago, I had had something to say from some of your friends that would be loss to your time to repeat. I will only say the words of one whose opinion you then desired concerning a sheet that had been writ*. They were these—"I know not how to commend what is so exactly my own sense, and the words I could have been glad to have said†." I met with none of another mind. I was two or three days in London at that very instant of time when the first consternation was upon some for what has since fallen out, which is marvellous indeed! Those who have lived longest, and therefore seen the most change, can scarce believe it is more than a dream: yet it is indeed real, and so amazing a reality of mercy, as ought to melt and ravish our hearts into subjection and resignation to Him who is the dispenser of all providences.

1688.

LXXXIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

You have since I saw you, good doctor, so shifted places, that my letters cannot find you. I writ to Windsor when you were gone to Cotenham, and yes-

* The sheet referred to was probably "Samuel Johnson's Way to Peace among all Protestants," being a letter of reconciliation sent by Bishop Ridley to Bishop Hooper, with observations, licenced July, 1688, afterwards seized by order of Lord Sunderland.

† Tillotson.

terday I directed to Cotenham : at night I heard upon what melancholy account you were gone from thence to poor Lady Gainsborough's*. I imagine your compassionate temper, and true Christian disposition to mourn with them that mourn (which I have had full proof of) will not let you quit that distressed family. So soon as this will reach you, be so kind to me as to say something to my lady : I will own all you can say that is kind and respectful, and suitable to her present circumstances : I consider her as one that has been a blessing to the family ; she must have known much sorrow and care in it, but she cannot miss a reward for her good works ; as to herself, I have ever esteemed her person.

I pity good Lady Betty, though I believe Lady Julian may have the greater loss : the first, I fancy, may have the greater sense what the want of parents is ; but I have a good hope their mother's children shall feel the mercies of God. I should be glad to hear the father has done his part towards their provision.

Parliament news can be nothing before Monday ; then the house of commons are to take the state of the nation into consideration†, and the lords do so on Tuesday.

I must repeat a question to you I made in my letter yesterday. It was to ask you if I am right, that you ordered me to lay down four guineas for you towards the redemption of some French Protestants taken go-

* Edward, Earl of Gainsborough's death.

† Jan. 28, the abdication was voted by the commons.

ing into Holland, and made slaves in Algiers. They are now redeemed, four ministers or five, and the rest proposers. My cousin Ruvigny has paid the money, and I am to gather to reimburse him the greatest part, if I can. I have some time since writ to Lord Camden for his contribution, and he bid me lay down for him, but the time was not come till now; so I will remind him again in a few days, but I think it not fit yet in his present circumstances. I will add no more at this time, from

Your true friend and servant.

26 January, 1688-9.

LXXXIV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

GOOD DOCTOR,

I GIVE you a thousand thanks for taking so very kindly of me all my impertinences, as most others would call them; but a good meaning excuses all to a good man. I do so little doubt of my interest to serve you, in the point you ask, at any time, that unless you urge the dispatch of it, I will defer the execution of it. I cannot now stay to expostulate why I would do so; but, in short, a hasty asking may alarm, and be thought to be an occasion of putting others on the same: and, perhaps, also before you would use the liberty you ask, accidents may abdicate your opinion. The reason of my haste is expecting every minute Doctor Lower to my daughter Cavendish, who was taken ill last night, in a manner, if she had not had the small-pox, one would guess she would have it. My sister Montague's

son has been so too, that I forbore seeing him, but yesterday that fear passed over.

I am, very faithfully,

Your friend to serve you to my power.

Thursday, March 16, 1688-9.

I hear the doctor's coach.

LXXXV.

TO LORD HALIFAX.

MY LORD,

THAT this is burdened with an humble request you will soon guess. What that is, and how I am engaged to it, if you will please to read the letter, you will know the first; and the address will tell the latter. It was the furthest in the world from my intention to break in thus upon your lordship, and give you a trouble in a time I take such as yourself to be (if you could be so) overwhelmed with business; but I was uneasy to resist a friend I love so well as Lady Shaftsbury, finding her so heartily interested in this affair as she is; and both the ladies so fixed in their belief, that this would be most effectually done, if your lordship would act in it. I am the more easy to move your lordship to do so, from the professions I have had the honour to hear you make, that you would readily and gladly serve good Lady Shaftsbury, who is disconsolate enough, and imagines it would be a refreshment to please a friend so very much as the obtaining this suit would my Lady Cowper, whom she has a great esteem for, and I take her to be worthy of it. Sir William is more known to your lordship.

My Lady Shaftsbury is so zealous in this matter that if she had believed her request more immediately from herself to your lordship would have been better to her purpose, you would have had that separate from this ; but being I was to do something, I thought we might do it jointly, and that better, because the shortest trouble to your lordship.—An apology added to all this would begin another from

Your lordship's most humble servant.

Feb. 1688-9.

Before I attempted to move this request to your lordship, I tried what Pollexfen could object against the fitness of it. He made no objection as to the gentleman, but, as many others do, gave him a very good character ; yet, as it is in all trades not to help another to a shop to work in, said, it might be the undoing young men. His friends are secure in him, and that others, as well as he, have done very well.

LXXXVI.

TO LORD HALIFAX.

MY LORD,

You must needs be so well acquainted with the solicitudes most persons have in such affairs as touch them very near, that you will not think it very strange, Lady Shaftsbury and I have been prevailed upon by Mr. Cowper's* friends once again to press your lordship to weigh his case, and serve him in it if it may be. If his majesty, when he granted this request in

* William, afterwards Earl Cowper, and lord chancellor. He died October 10, 1723.

the behalf of Mr. Cowper, was pleased (as I understood from your lordship) to express his sense of that favour as a thing extraordinary, and to make the irregularity of it an instance of his grace to Lady Shaftsbury and myself, we are ready to embrace his majesty's concessions in the largest sense, being disposed to think as highly of his goodness as any circumstance can render it, and therefore would not controvert that point, though very understanding men, and several eminent disinterested persons of the profession of the law are of a contrary opinion; and the frequent instances that are given of its having been done before, seem rather to prove it has been used as an encouragement for young gentlemen to serve the king in that difficult profession, and consequently is most proper for such, and is likely to induce such to qualify themselves to serve their king and country with more honour and integrity, than persons whose first steps and advances in the world teach them shifting. But, to lay our partiality aside, I think we may say that it is hard to guess, after the king has given the place to Mr. Cowper, under the notion of its being irregular in respect of his age, what worse representations the commissioners can have made of him to the king; except they have mistaken the matter of fact, and told his majesty that a man of twenty-four is under age; an age his majesty has found is not incapable of great actions.

It must be some strange inconveniency attending this grant they have pressed, that could move the king to determine his pleasure so soon to one that yet has not been capable of offending in that station; and every day mends the fault he took it in with.

Sure this is a matter below the envy of the lords commissioners; and what other reasons they can have in suppressing him, we think it not proper to inquire into. Mr. Cowper says, "That if the testimony of able and worthy men of the same profession to the contrary of their suggestions will remove the obstructions they have laid to his majesty's grace, he is able to produce them;" though men of the same profession are naturally not very forward in those offices.

The readiness your lordship has expressed to undertake this matter, first in compliment to Lady Shaftsbury and myself, and since to the family, makes it unnecessary to urge zeal. I deliver mine with submission to your judgment, that advantages every thing it undertakes.

Your lordship's, &c.

LXXXVII.

TO SIR H. POLLEXFEN,

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

WHAT I offer in this paper to Mr. Attorney General, I should with a better will do personally, if I were not very sure it would be very much more a trouble to you to tell you in your chamber my true joy for the eminent station you are in, and that the reason you are so is because you are worthy of it; which will, I hope, be the prevailing rule in this our new world; though I must think there has been a failure already in the person of one about you, who offered some discourse to me when I was last with you. I have done all you desired of me then; and as I have practised

silence under long sufferings, I can do so in any case, the day of consolation I wait for, is not to be met with in this lower world. But now, sir, I must, before I release you, earnestly entreat your good will on the behalf of Sir William Cowper's son, whom I did name to you, and also the request his friends desired to make for him, which was to be made one of the king's council. It is very true you did not approve the thing, though you spoke well of the man; but your exceptions seemed to me to be especially in regard to young gentlemen; that it was not advisable, proving for the most part a ruin to them. His friends persisting in their desire, taking assurance from his temper he would do well, Lady Shaftsbury and myself so engaged in it, that by the means of Lord Halifax, we obtained the king's promise; and Mr. Cowper kissed the king's hand for it. Lord Shrewsbury* gave the warrant, and now it stops at the commissioners of the great seal; and as they tell me, because Mr. Attorney is not contented at it. I am

* Charles Talbot, Earl, afterwards Duke of Shrewsbury, (son to Francis, who was killed in a duel by the Duke of Buckingham in 1667, and brother to John, killed in a duel by Henry, Duke of Grafton) after mortgaging his estate, he remitted 40,000*l.* to the Prince of Orange, went to Holland, and drew with him several other persons of honour; for that and other good services, he was by King William preferred to be secretary of state, and to many other employments, and created a duke. He died 1717-18.—[*Br. Comp.*] He had been bred a Papist, but had forsaken that religion, upon a critical inquiry into the points of controversy, in which he was assisted by Tillotson. He was a man of strict honour and probity, with a large share of learning, a correct judgment, sweetness of temper, and modesty of deportment, that charmed all who knew him.—*Burnet.*

sorry if it is so ; and if the business had not proceeded so very far, I would not urge it. But the reflection will be very heavy upon Mr. Cowper, and not easy to my Lady Shaftsbury and myself ; as for a favour to us the king expressed he did it, and after some difficulty at the irregularity of it.

Pray consider, Mr. Attorney, all dispensing powers are not unlawful. I undertake very few things, and therefore do very little good to people ; but I do not love to be balked, when I thought my end compassed ; and though you would not promote us in it, I hope you will not destroy us.

Let me know, if you please, how it stands, and if you can be inexorable to the earnest solicitudes of a mother, who I must bring to you. I know not what to say more, but that I am sorry they were ever made to hope for it ; Lady Shaftsbury and I being

Yours, &c.

LXXXVIII.

TO LADY ESSEX*.

BEING I read your ladyship's obliging and so very moving letter on Sunday, I must say why I have not waited on you since ; it is because I was then engaged both the next days to be out of town ; yet on both of them I endeavoured the same performance I am now about, but still broke off by slight but unavoidable interruption less acceptable than usual, since it might hazard my seeming to receive your ladyship's kindness and your orders with less cordial respect

* Elizabeth, widow of Arthur, Earl of Essex, daughter of Algernon Percy, Earl of Northumberland.

than I do, and ever will do. If any labour I could take might be of the meanest service to you, I assure you, madam, you should feel the effects of my good will. But, alas! I am not qualified, nor have opportunity to do what I should find content in doing, as most certainly I should, if in the least degree I could help to soften those thoughts, which, by so long and so constant a fretting on a tender body, consume you with grief. I do feelingly mourn with you at the new imbittering of that cup you have so deeply drank out of already. But, madam, be careful you do not aggravate circumstances to your own wrong. That melancholy which has so long possessed your soul, is apt, I believe, to turn the darkest side towards you; and a sore not skinned is soon made to smart, nay to shrink when any thing comes near to it, as if it were touched, though really it is not. This perhaps may be your case at present. Rest your thoughts in your own innocence, madam; nothing that is worthy can slander you in their most secret thoughts, much less Sir H. C. who is abroad, also most secure in his own merit. All those intimated in your letter are perfectly new to me; and I must consent to say the same thing your ladyship does of them.

In what I can serve the just end you aim at, I will be very diligent. And I beseech God one day to speak peace to our afflicted minds, and let us not be disappointed of our great hope. But we must wait for our day of consolation till this world passes away; an unkind and trustless world it has been to us. Why it has been such, God knows best; all his dispensations serve the end of his providences; and they are ever beautiful, and must be good, and good to every

one of us; and even these dismal ones are to us, if we can bear evidence to our own souls that we are better for our afflictions; which God often makes them to be who suffer wrongfully. We may reasonably believe our friends find that rest we yet but hope for; and what better comfort can your ladyship or I desire in this valley of the shadow of death we are walking through! The rougher our path is, the more delightful and ravishing will the great change be to us.

Wednesday, 19 March, 1688-9.

LXXXIX.

TO * * *

SIR,

THOUGH I am personally a stranger to you, yet that disadvantage does not discourage me from presenting to your consideration a young gentleman, who is very solicitous I would do so; and being a man of quality (and his father the Earl of Anglesey, my uncle* by marriage), I was not willing to refuse his request, which he does urge very powerfully with me, because very modestly and reasonably. His father has left him very destitute, and, as he says, he thinks he should be wanting to himself if he did not seek to obtain an honest livelihood; so I think too.

He aims at clerk of the presentations, which he says is not honestly worth more at the most than 200*l.* a year. He believes himself qualified for the fit execution of it, and if you find him not so, I would be no more willing than yourself he should be ac-

* Lady Elizabeth Manners, daughter to John, Earl of Rutland, married James Annesley, Earl of Anglesea.

cepted of, being I would have all places in this blessed change of times given to those who are most fit to execute them; and therefore am glad to hear the universal approbation of that trust is reposed in you, which I wish you a long enjoyment of as,

Sir, your faithful servant, &c.

22 March, 1688-9.

XC.

TO THE EARL OF STRAFFORD.

MY LORD,

I AM ashamed to name the date of your lordship's last, it being so long since as the 8th instant. But have really deferred from a desire first to have had an opportunity of speaking largely and freely with my Lord of Bedford; yet I cannot compass that end, either at his own house or mine: he is full of company, or his age requires rest as soon as he is disengaged. The last discourse I had upon this subject, he told me he had writ to your lordship, and spoke very desponding of the matter, but with regret, giving a high and just esteem to your lordship, and all your procedure throughout this tedious treaty. Indeed, my lord, I must for ever make it my opinion, that my Lord Strafford cannot transgress from all the rules that honour directs to go by; what cause soever he may have of complaint, he is secure never to be complained of; and if your lordship knew my part in this whole business, I should not fear being judged by you. I have, to my mean judgment, observed my equal way of dealing which I intend in all my dealings and actions in this wretched world; and have been

very careful not to fail where I find so true honour, and for many other reasons, pay so profound a respect as I do to your lordship. But I am safe in your lordship's just understanding and knowledge of the world, that you will agree my relation obliges me to be tender in the urging things of such a nature as this. And I can say there has been all the kind dispositions to this affair, that your lordship could expect, and when there was such I was most ready to use my endeavours to serve both families; and though there continues the same respect, yet unhappy accidents forbidding a close, I am to acquiesce. And though your lordship, in great generosity, seems to imply as if you would reject any advantageous offer, and wait this new storm passing over, I cannot join with you in that: as I suppose you would not bind her, so you should not yourself, who I sincerely wish may ease the present pressure of your affairs by some happy lot.

I am, my lord,

Your lordship's most faithful humble servant.

26 March, 1689.

XCI.

TO LORD * * *

I WILL pretend to wish you, and the world too, as well as any body can do, and therefore with as much zeal desire you may live long to do much good in the station you are by the mighty providence of God now placed in. But indeed I had reserved the saying of this till we had met, if this was not come burdened with another errand. You know I am not frequent

nor very impertinently importunate with my solicitations, yet sometimes I am prevailed upon, when I both wish the person was supplied, and approve of the matter of solicitation. What assistance you can give it, you will best know when you see the request. The gentleman is the best son my Lady Anglesey has; I refer his character to the Dean of Canterbury or Dr. Sharp; the first I am sure you will hear it from; he is a man of quality, his father has left him very destitute, and, as he says, he should be very wanting to himself if he did not seek to obtain an honest livelihood; so I think too, and for that reason would assist him to my power. This application to you he requests from me, and he urges it very powerfully, because very modestly; yet I should hardly have yielded if I were not sure the good dean is to second me heartily in it. The enclosed paper is my cousin Anglesey's, and shows what he aims at. I take it for granted he is qualified; I am certain I would have all places in this blessed change of times given to none that should not discharge them with both honesty and understanding.

I am, &c.

5 April, 1689.

XCII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I LOOKED in vain for your calling here in your way to Cotenham; that which I desired it most for (though I love your company at all times) was to have discoursed you about the pass for your going abroad. I took the opinion of a gentleman you think well of, and meet here often. He agreed with me that it

could not miss at any time ; however, some time since that, the doctor I think to do it by, believing with me, I asked his opinion, that if I should perceive I should gratify a friend of mine by obtaining such a liberty, being in his power, whether he thought it would be hard to be obtained, or would assist me in it ? He replied, he should be very sorry at the thing ; it would not look well, unless some young gentlemen went at the same time, and so it might be alleged he would see him placed abroad, or desired to spend some time with ; something of this kind would give it a grace, but he believed there would be no cause to enforce any one's desire to be absent. So I left it till I know more of your mind in it. I cannot imagine but by them or some other, I shall not fail to serve you in your own way, yet I would not defer it without your liking I do so, lest I should be disappointed when I try, for there is no certainty in this poor world. But I will watch if any thing is doing, that you should wish to make use of such a liberty.

This is the day the house of commons take the act of oblivion into consideration, and they say will begin upon the ecclesiastical court. Lady Sunderland is come over to solicit in her lord's behalf. We heard yesterday, that poor Lord Gainsborough is dead. Possibly your friendship in their time of need may have carried you thither, and so this will miss you, and every thing I can put in it be so old before you read it, that I will not say much more. My sister Alington is in town, and Miss Die was to come last night. I am told my niece Digby comes this week or the next.

I am, good doctor,

Your affectionate friend.

5 April, 1689.

XCIII.

TO THE EARL OF STRAFFORD.

MY LORD,

YOUR lordship's of the 2d of April puts me under very great obligations of a perpetual acknowledgment both of your kind acceptation of my disposition to serve you, in the whole progress of this treaty, and the justice I find from your lordship, when you consider my part in it. My lord, if my letter of the 26 March fixes your lordship's doubts to more certainty, that this matter at last must fall, I am sorry it is my lot to speak the most unpleasing to your lordship on a subject your lordship has taken so deep and so obliging impressions of it into your mind, and with so much constancy and generosity pursued, to the eternal engagements of all honourable and most respectful acknowledgments from a family whose sentiments must be mine: consequently I must always be your lordship's humble servant; and as such, as much as in a just pursuance of a principle I would never depart from, if I speak at all I must speak clearly, and not doubtfully, if I apprehend no doubt remains; and indeed, my lord, by all the judgment I can make here, it is so in this case, yet without abating any part of that perfect esteem and honour my Lord of Bedford has established in his heart and thoughts of your lordship; but the bad state of Ireland* does so affect him, that he is satisfied he should give his daughter, whether she was so or not, a just cause to complain he did not consider her whole interest, if he should

* King James's invasion, &c.

provide her no better provision of fortune than your lordship's present circumstances can make for her. However, I wish your lordship a true prophet, that a few months may recover Ireland: and I do very particularly for your lordship's share in it, as a person that is, with great respect,

Your lordship's

Most faithful humble servant.

20 April, 1689.

XCIV.

TO THE EARL OF STRAFFORD.

MY LORD,

I AM so very sensible of that great civility your lordship chooses still to preserve towards me, who have been no fortunate instrument and perhaps sometimes a faulty one through ignorance, in this so long depending treaty, that I cannot obtain my own good will to be altogether silent, but tell your lordship how I value your good opinion, and that excellent temper which disposes your lordship to bear so calmly, and so respectfully, a behaviour, you say you see yourself injured in. I am infinitely sorry it has proved so, and so are, I must affirm, all persons concerned; but continual repetitions would be too tedious to your lordship, and I would not again disturb your rest, by your reading at an unseasonable hour a letter you do not like.

I will venture it, if ever I can write one which shall (as I think) be welcome to you; if any man can conquer, your lordship's zeal and kindness must. But, my lord, this is a time of so much threatening

and distraction, that all private concerns, though never so great, must rest, I think; though, as your lordship hints very justly, it were unreasonable to be required on either side, that there should not be an entire freedom to choose as may be agreeing to either side*.

XCV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

By your last letter, writ some day in Passion week, I find where you were then; yet having heard nothing of you since, it gives me some doubts where you are now, being, I apprehend, Lady Gainsborough might be solicitous to see so faithful and so useful a friend, especially in this time of her need; and if she does, I never make a doubt of your gratifying her.

I cannot tell you I have taken any notice of that part of your last letter which concerns Lord Bedford, and the Cambridgeshire clergy; for really and truly unless I made it a business to do it (which you did not seem to require), I have had no time; the parliament hours are so extravagant, that I see him little. He has with him now a concerned lady in the privileges of your country, Lady Alington; but though she is in London, she would not walk yesterday, which I do not commend her for: I am not sure what you may do; I had no sister there yesterday. You hear all the new honours, I suppose; not many new creations, but all are stepping higher; as Lord Win-

* Unfinished.

chester* is Duke of Bolton: Lord Montague, an earl†, called still Montague; Falconbridge‡, an earl, called the same; Mordaunt§, Earl of Monmouth; Churchill||, an earl; Lord Lumley ¶made viscount; Bentinck** is an earl; Sidney††, a viscount. Those that saw this and the last coronation, tell me this was much finer and in better order; and if the number of the ladies were fewer, yet their attendance was with more application near the queen all the time, and with more cheerful faces by a great deal. By what is heard from Scotland, they mean to take the example from England. The last reports from Ireland say, that King James was moving with his army towards the north; and yesterday Lord Burlington said, Colerain,

* Charles Paulet, Marquis of Winchester. Reresby relates, that in the midst of the impending dangers which seemed to threaten us, there was a nobleman (the M. of W.) who had by his conduct persuaded some people to think him mad; but notwithstanding his irregularity, he was a man of great sense, and it is certain his meaning was to keep himself out of the way of the more serious censure in those ticklish days.

† Ralph Montague, lord, earl, afterwards duke.

‡ Thomas Bellasis, Viscount Fauconberg; his second wife was Mary, daughter of Oliver Cromwell.

§ Charles Mordaunt, who afterwards succeeded his uncle Henry, as Earl of Peterborough.

|| John Churchill, Earl, afterwards Duke of Marlborough. He said to Rouvigny in 1685, "If the king is ever prevailed on to alter our religion, I will serve him no longer, but withdraw from him."—*Burnet*.

¶ Richard Lumley, afterwards Earl of Scarborough. He secured Newcastle for King William, to whom he was otherwise very serviceable.

** William Bentinck, Earl, afterwards Duke of Portland.

†† Henry Sidney, Esq. fourth son of Robert, Earl of Leicester, afterwards Earl of Romney.

a great town, was besieged by 6000 men, but that Lord Blaine* had sallied out, and so behaved himself that they had raised the siege. D'Avaux, who was the French ambassador in Holland, would not speak in council, till all the Protestants were put out; so they were, and, as they say, afterwards discharged all together, as the Lord Grenard, &c. I am called away, and it is too late to defer sending this from

Your constant friend and servant.

12 April, 1689.

The mother Lady Aylesbury is dead very suddenly.

XCVI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THIS comes to ask a courtesy of you, good doctor, if I can get this letter to you time enough. The business is this; Lord Devonshire is to be installed at Windsor on St. George's† day. My young folks have a longing desire to see the ceremony, and they cannot do it without a night's lodging in Windsor. If I can have

* In 1689, King James, before he left Ireland, sent to invite Henry Lord Blaney into his service, promising him a pardon for what had passed; the said lord answered, "That he had a new king upon whose word he could depend and trust, but never would to his without his sword in his hand;" and heading a body of Protestants in the province of Ulster, he took the pass of Lough Bricklan, seized Armagh, and caused King William and Queen Mary to be proclaimed there, and at several other places, with great solemnity.—*Irish Comp.*

† William, Earl, afterwards Duke of Devonshire, installed knight of the garter, May 14; but according to Lady Russell, designed to be April 23, St. George's day.

that accommodation of your house, I will think it a great favour, and will go with them, and look to your house while every body is gone to the show.

I doubt the post cannot bring me a return time enough, so I am put in hopes this may come to you by a coach; if it does, I do not question your order to your housekeeper to let us in. In confidence of it, I think to send to her, that I believe I shall come and air your beds for a night.

I have had an opportunity since I writ last, to tell Lord Bedford what you said about the clergy. He answered, he believed there would be no change made, but if there were, you should have good reasons for it, such as he knew would satisfy you: but he was sure he should not be forward to impose upon the clergy.

It is church time, and therefore I bid you farewell for this time.

Ever your friend and servant.

Sunday.

XCVII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR last spoke of being in town so soon, that it has made me (who manage writing to the best advantage) be longer than otherwise I would have been without inquiring of you where you are, and where you design to spend your time? Where you shall do it, God only knows; for we can only propose; and it is best for us, who can judge so poorly as we do, when we do it best. Those who have lived long enough to reflect may give themselves many instances how certain a truth it is, that we would often choose what is

worst for us. I have had six books, and distributed them, and mean to buy six more, so good and useful I take them to be. My stay here is not intended above ten or twelve days.

I will not turn my paper, so I rest

Your true friend and servant.

XCVIII.

DR. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

I RECEIVED, good madam, by yours of the 11th, a further testimony of that kindness of which I had abundant proof and full conviction before, and of your readiness to employ your interest to procure that for me which I requested some three months since. I made that petition then, in prospect of what is now come upon us, and in hope that, having obtained previous leave to go abroad before the oaths had been pressed, I should not have been immediately compelled to return back to take them. What now I shall do in this present emergency I am irresolved; but if, having first debated it with myself, and advised with my friends, it shall seem most expedient to make such a retreat, I will depend upon your honour's mediation for that favour.

I have a project, which, if feasible, would please me more than any thing in the world, and by such an interest as yours may be in this court, upon the merits of your lord's sufferings, and the actings of his family, I should not question it might be obtained for one so unworthy of any ray of grace as myself. But if the thing be set on foot, it must be with great caution and secrecy, till I am secure of the king's promise for it;

and therefore I cannot tell whether you had best acquaint the prelate mentioned in your last with it, unless you have more confidence in him that he will entirely serve you, than I can that he will descend to make himself an instrument to serve me. It is to get a person presented to my living, upon my resignation, by the crown, in whom I may confide, without any the least capitulation direct or indirect beforehand. He whom I design is one Mr. Jekyl, minister of the New Chapel, Westminster, a very good man, and a favourite enough of the government. I could do this now another way before the first of August; but that I would take a longer time to consider, and did not I withal apprehend that the Bishop of Ely*, who is the original patron of it, would scruple to administer the oath to any upon institution, while he is unsatisfied about taking them himself. I cannot tell what my dear friend the B. of B. and W. may do in this case. I find him, by a letter to me, and another I saw in the hands of a person of honour of your sex, to be fluctuating; but if the consideration of the church's peace should, without a full persuasion of the lawfulness of the matter of the oath of allegiance, and of the authority which imposeth it, induce him to take it, neither his example or advice, though I have used him as a spiritual guide, should steer me in this point; for I could never hear that doctrine of the Roman casuists defended to a probability, that a good intention, or a holy end, could sanctify actions, in order to that end, which were dubious and questionable in themselves.

It may be I have as sad thoughts for the divisions

* Turner, of Ely, and Keen, of Bath and Wells, nonjurors.

of the church, and as ardent desires for its peace as any; and let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I prefer not Jerusalem before my chief joy. But I cannot esteem it a good way to seek the attainment of this by any act which shall disturb my own peace; and yet this I must of necessity do, if I make use of such means as may be conducive to that end, when I am not first convinced of the justice of them. I did not doubt but the deans of some of the greatest name in the city would take the oaths, nor do I suspect but they will proceed to the doing so upon grounds which seem in their own judgment very solid. And yet I ought not to act or defend what I do by the example of others. This is like clearing one's self by reckoning up the faults of others, as St. Hierome writing to Celantia observes: but, however, as he proceeds, it argues a lightness and vanity of mind, for a man to leave his own conscience to follow the opinion of others. It may be their judgment, that at least, in such a case as ours was, the people have power to alter the succession; and that the convention was a full representative of them.

I sucked in other more monarchical principles with the first knowledge I had, from the breasts of my mother the University, and then, and ever since took them, as far as I could understand, to be more agreeable to our frame of constitution of government. Or they may look on this revolution as a tacit and virtual conquest. I wish it had been owned to be such; for then I had known, from the resolutions of civilians and casuists, and my own reason, what to have done without difficulty. In the mean time, I entreat you, very good madam, not to call boggling at an oath, clashing against another, as far as I can discern, which

I formerly took, an unnecessary scruple. I believe, were you under such an engagement, your tenderness and circumspection would be rather greater than mine.

The former oath of allegiance runs thus: "I will bear *faith and true allegiance* to his majesty King Charles, or King James, *and his heirs and successors, and him and them* will defend." Of supremacy, "I will bear *faith and true allegiance* to the king's highness (Charles or James), *his heirs, and lawful successors*, and to my power shall assist and defend all jurisdictions, privileges, preeminences, and authorities granted or belonging to the king's highness, his heirs and successors, or united and annexed to the imperial crown of this realm."

Now I am informed by the statute 1 Jac. c. 1. that lineal succession is a privilege belonging to the imperial crown, and by 12 Car. 2, c. 30. 17. that by the undoubted and fundamental laws of this kingdom, neither the peers of this realm, nor the commons, nor both together, in parliament, or out of parliament, nor the people collectively, nor representatively, nor any persons whatsoever, hath, or ought to have, any coercive power over the kings of this realm.

The present oath runs thus: "I will bear true allegiance to their majesties King William and Queen Mary." Now let any impartial person resolve me, whether one of these, King James having abdicated, be his heir, or lawful successor, or could be made so, had the people met either collectively or representatively, which they did neither*?

* In 1674-5, on a bill to prevent dangers from disaffected persons, Lord Halifax, with that quickness of learning and

In the mean time, I protest to your ladyship, upon the truth of a Christian and a priest, that divesting myself of all prejudices, and, as far as it is possible, of all passions which darken the light of the judgment, I will examine the matter to the bottom, and if I find I can take the oath, I will: but if I find I cannot, without declaring, or an admission of such a declaration, that I never intend nor will be thought by construction or implication by such swearing, to recognise the legal title of King William and Queen Mary, I then beg of your honour these three things.

1. That you would have the same good opinion of my integrity, and of my zealous addiction to you, or to any thing relating to your service, as ever you had heretofore.

2. That you would permit me, in entire trust and confidence, to make over all my worldly goods to you; for I fear that some men's heats may drive affairs so far, as to bring all recusants of it into a præmunire.

elegance which are inseparable from all his discourses, made it appear that as there was no real security to any state by oaths, so no private person, much less statesman, would ever order his affairs as relying on it, for no man would ever sleep with open doors, or unlocked up treasure, or plate, should all the town be sworn not to rob: so that the use of multiplying oaths had been most commonly to exclude or disturb some honest conscientious men, who would never have prejudiced the government. As for promissory oaths, it was desired the learned prelates would consider the opinion of Grotius de Jure, B. and P. c. ii. 13. who seems to make it plain, that those kinds of oaths are forbidden by our Saviour Christ, Matth. v. 34, 37—and whether it would not become the fathers of the church, when they have well weighed that and other places in the New Testament, to be more tender in multiplying oaths, than hitherto the great men of the church have been.—*P. Debates.*—Ralph says, the marquis lived till 1700.

3. That I may have some room in your house, if any can be spared, to set up my books in, and have recourse to them, if, on refusal, we may be permitted to stay in the town.

The first petition I with more earnestness would press upon you, your sister the Lady Montague, and all other friends, than the rest, because I look upon it as the worst sort of martyrdom, to suffer in the opinion of friends I have extremely loved and honoured, either as indiscreet or factious.

But yet, if such a martyrdom cannot be avoided, I will endeavour to sustain it with patience and courage.

Mrs. Alington, for whom I have always had a tender regard from her childhood, sensibly wounded me when she called this standing out of the bishops factious.

As to the second, if you shall see fit to decline it, I will apply with the same request to my very honoured friend the Lady Gainsborough.

The third is with supposition only, that such a concession may not bring any great inconvenience upon your house.

I hope your honour will excuse the mean accommodation mine at Windsor Castle could yield you, and the meaner it may be because I could not be there to direct. I wrote twice that Doctor Scot might spare you a room; and if it had come into my head earlier than to-day, I am sure the Dean of Winchester would, upon my writing, have spared you any in Dr. Fulham's house, which is in his command.

I entreat your honour to present my very humble respect and service to the Lord Russell, Lady Cavendish, Madam Catherine. I commend you and them

to God's protection, and continue, as I shall by your permission, ever, madam,

Your honour's most truly and

Humble devoted servant.

13 May, 1689.

XCIX.

TO * * *.

MY LORD,

For my part, I think the man a very indifferent reasoner, that to do well, he must take with indifference whatever happens to him. It is very fine to say, Why should we complain that is taken back which was but lent us, and lent us but for a time, we know? and so on. They are the receipts of philosophers I have no reverence for, as I have not for any thing which is unnatural. It is insincere; and I dare say they did dissemble, and felt what they would not own. I know I cannot dispute with Almighty Power; but yet if my delight is gone, I must needs be sorry it is taken away, according to the measure it made me glad.

The Christian religion only, believe me, my lord, has a power to make the spirit easy under great calamity; nothing less than the hope of being again made happy can satisfy the mind: I am sure I owe more to it, than I could have done to the world, if all the glories of it had been offered me, or to be disposed of by men; and I do sincerely desire your lordship may experience the truth of my opinion. You know better than most, from the share you have had of the one, what they do afford; and I hope you will prove what tranquillity the other gives. If I had a better wish

to make, your lordship's constant expressions of esteem for me, and willingness, as I hope, to have had me less miserable than I am, if you had found your power equal to your will, engages me to make it; and that alone would have bound me, though my own unworthiness and ill fortune had let you have forgot me for ever after my sad lot. But since you would not do so, it must deserve a particular acknowledgment for ever, from

Your lordship's.

July, 1689.

C.

BISHOP OF SALISBURY TO LADY RUSSELL.

IF it were for no other cause but to have peace at home I must write to your ladyship; for, madam, my wife* is scarce in charity with me, for my not offering her most humble service to your ladyship and your children; and therefore that I may not forget it again, I must now begin with it, and so be again in her favour. She is not a little proud of the many

* About 1687, Dr. Burnet married, in Holland, Mrs. Mary Scott, a Dutch lady of large fortune, and noble extraction. Her ancestor, on the father's side, was of the family of Buccleugh, who settled in Holland; on the mother's side, who was a de Ruyter, she was related to the principal families in Guelderland. With these advantages of birth, she had those of a fine person; was well skilled in drawing, music, and painting; and spoke Dutch, English, and French equally well. Her knowledge in matters of divinity was such as might rather be expected from a student than from a lady. She had a fine understanding and sweetness of temper, and excelled in all the qualifications of a dutiful wife, a prudent mistress of a family, and a tender mother of children.—*Biog. Brit.*

honours you have done her; and desires most earnestly to be looked on by you as one that has all the value and admiration for you which she can possibly pay you. I do in the next place, on my own account, make my most humble acknowledgments for the great care you have had of my books, which I have now cased up in your ladyship's cases for Salisbury. I have been so long accustomed to be obliged to your ladyship, and have so long a score to reckon for, that I will never offer to clear it. All I can say is, that as I have met with all the noble marks of a most obliging goodness and friendship from your ladyship, so no heart can possibly be fuller of a deep sense of it than mine is; and as long as I live I will reckon myself as much a property to you, as any thing can be that eats your bread; and you and yours may ever depend upon all that I can ever do, as much as if I were bought with your money. You will, perhaps, wonder how I have got into this strain, that am so little apt even to say what I ought to do upon such subjects; but a heart that is very full will sometimes give itself a little vent; and therefore forgive me for saying that at sometimes, which I think at all times.

I will not undertake to write much news to your ladyship, only that from Londonderry is so good, that there is now great reason to hope for a speedy issue of that siege*. Murrarty's† driving so many thou-

* Londonderry was relieved 19 July, 1689.

† Murrarty, query Maccarty, who commanded at Inniskilling. Ralph relates, that Conrade de Rosen, marshal general of King James's forces in Ireland, 30th June, 1689 (during the siege of Londonderry), had recourse to a device, which for every kind of barbarity is not to be paralleled in history; he

sands of Irish Protestants to Londonderry, either to die before it, or to be let in to eat up their provisions, is a piece of cruelty that, if persisted in, will bring on great barbarities, and will raise our mobile again on the papists of England. We are not quite sure whether the French fleet is out or not; for though there is some reason to believe it, yet there is much reason to doubt of it. If it is true, there will be a speedy decision at sea, upon which a great deal will depend. You will know that there has been much heat to-day in the house of commons, with relation to the two marquisses* for removing them both. I dined to-day

threatened to gather the Irish Protestants, and cause them immediately to be brought to the walls of Londonderry, where (he said) it shall be lawful for those that are in the town, in case they have any pity for them, to open the gates and receive them into the town; otherwise they will be forced to see their nearest relations and friends all starved for want of food; he having resolved not to leave one of them at home, nor any thing to maintain them, unless the besieged surrendered the next day; and to give no quarter, nor spare either age or sex, if the town should be taken by force. He fulfilled his first menace without waiting for a reply; for 4000, or some say 7000, of all ages and conditions, stripped, and deprived of food, were drove before Londonderry; and a great part of them perished by fatigue, grief, or want.

* The Marquisses of Halifax and Carmarthen; the latter, Thomas Osborne, afterwards (viz. 1694) Duke of Leeds, cooperated in the restoration of King Charles II. was the chief instrument in procuring the match between the Princess Mary and the Prince of Orange, and acted with great zeal in the placing them on the throne, which was rewarded with great trusts and honours. He died 1712.—*Brit. Comp.* (His daughter Bridget was first married to Charles Fitz-Charles, Earl of Plymouth, natural son of King Charles II. by Catharine Peg.) Burnet says, he gained the highest degree in Charles II.'s confidence, and maintained it longer than any

with one of them, who seems not to be much troubled at it; perhaps he thought it was a victory, because the debate was adjourned; but after all, those wounds are no desirable things. I know your ladyship has all our news from other hands, so I will give you no other trouble, but to assure you, that I am, with all possible duty,

Madam, your ladyship's most humble,
And most obedient servant.

Saturday night.

CI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR letter came to me, good doctor, just as you designed it. I must, or be very injurious to you, say you are a very mindful friend; and I should be injurious to myself, if I did not say I am a very thankful receiver of your compassionate charity; and your sense of my loss touches me very obligingly.

It is very natural, I believe, to be pleased another thinks as I do, to some degree, of my pain or pleasure, and that one does not foolishly affect either. You instance very right, sir: it was an entire affection which was between us; and no time, I believe, can ever waste my sorrow. All I desire is to make it innocent.

For the late circumstances in relation to the family, I would have assisted to my power for the procuring thereof; but for any sensible joy at these outward

that ever served him: he was likewise in great favour with King William. It was the Marquis of Halifax who put this question, Whether the Prince and Princess of Orange should be declared king and queen?—*Oldmixon*.

things, I feel none : I think I should, if I live to see him a worthy man.

Your discourse is very fine, gathered from the philosophers, but that would not do my business. I know there is no disputing with an Almighty Power; and what he gives us he may take away at his own time, and we have no reason to complain; but yet if my delight is gone, I must be sorry it is taken. But your Christian doctrine has much more power in it. There you tell us the particular advantage that all good people have by particular trials of faith, if they behave themselves as they ought. We gain the content in our minds that our faith is sincere, by our willing obedience to all Providences; and God will not forget any good thing in us; we shall have a reward; there is a promise of everlasting life; and what would not one do to obtain it? For we love ourselves too well, not to desire to be well always. I may say it is a great bait to do our duty, so that if we have faith, we shall have love and obedience.

Your prayer I like so well, that I have used it with such fervour as I can, more than once this serious day; and hope I shall more and more acquiesce in these dark providences.

I received a letter from my sister, which I have just read; she says her son is well recovered of the measles, but is very lean, and her daughter pale; that she is going in a few days to Boughton. I believe country air will be to their advantage: I pray God spare them to her, poor woman.

London is like to be my retreat from hence, for Lord Bedford seems to have no hope of getting yet to Woburn, and I am not prepared at Stratton; but what

one seems so directed to, I hope will do well. Lord Carberry's lady is dead. It is kept very carefully from the princess, who goes very long for one so big as she was. I hear Lady Gainsborough is recovering. The dowager lady writes me word she had some thoughts of sending Lady Julian to the bath; that Lady Northampton was to take the opinion of Doctor Lower—truly I wish he may advise it; for I have believed a good while it was the best thing she could do, and I am glad she is in hands will leave nothing undone may be thought to her advantage; for that, I do firmly believe, my lady will not; as I do that I shall always be Dr. Fitzwilliam's

Faithful friend and servant.

July 21, 1689.

CII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I KNEW not where to find you, good doctor, because your last said you would go to Lord Gainsborough's, and then to Windsor. Now I hear Lord Gainsborough and his lady are at Banbury waters; but I have heard no more of you than that Mr. Hoskins told me he saw you at my sister Alington's. However, I can willingly lose a sheet of paper of my scribbling in search of one I wish so well to. We have been leaving London ever since I came to it, but Lord Bedford has been indisposed, and that delayed it from day to day; so that it will be Monday before he thinks of it now. Here is no news but what the Gazette tells. Two expresses did come yesterday, one from Ireland, the other from Scotland, but I know nothing of them:

they were sent to Hampton Court. However, I do so little know when you will read this, that it shall not be enlarged by

Your ever affectionate friend to serve you.

23 August, 1689.

CIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I AM most ready, good doctor, to furnish you towards a correspondence; but any matter I am sure serves you if mine does. Now the matter you supply me with is too fine, or too strong, indeed both, for me to meddle with. I am sorry you missed Lord Montague, though I despair of argument winning you, who I believe have gone through all; but his power and goodness might be useful to you: and all the service which can be done you, I wish you may find friends to do it, and would refuse no part I can act.

I am very sorry the case stands with you as it does in reference to the oath; and still wonder (unless I could find kings of divine right) why it does so; and all this is the acceptation of a word which I never heard two declare the meaning of but they differed in their sense of it. You say you could have taken it in the sense some worthy men have done. Why will you be more worthy than those men? It is supererogation.

If you can avoid mental reservation, that is the biggest thing to me, for I hate that to God or man; properly I know we can have none to God, though we may wish to have it; but I abhor that wish. But you seem to say, though you are permitted to declare, that

is not enough, as not being consistent with the simplicity of an oath, and that it ought to be taken according to the mind of the imposers. If you can take it, as those you mention have done, declaring they meant legal obedience, and peaceable submission, I dare say you may do so: no more is meant to be imposed, especially by the king and queen. And does not being content with the construction your friends put upon it signify their permission to take it in such a sense? It was my Lord Nottingham's * misfortune to pitch upon that word which gives such scruples: but methinks (with submission to wiser heads) it should be a greater to weaken the interest of the church, and the protestant religion all the world over, to the degree, so many able men, incapacitating themselves to serve in the church, will do if God in much mercy prevent it not.

It is above great and good men to regard reflections, if they give not a just cause of scandal; and in serv-

* Daniel Finch, Earl of Nottingham. He opposed the prince's accession as contrary to law, yet said, that since his highness was here, and we must owe our protection to him as king *de facto*, he thought it but just and legal to swear allegiance to him. (*Ralph.*) He was with some difficulty prevailed on to be secretary of state to king William. He told the friends of the revolution he could not go along with them, but he would so far assist them as his good wishes would avail, and be so far criminal as concealment would make him. (*Burnet.*) He had great credit with the church party; in 1721 he received the thanks of the university of Oxford, for his defence of the Trinity against Whiston. He died 1729-30, having a few months before succeeded to the title of Earl of Winchester. His father Heneage, Burnet calls a man of probity, an uncorrupt judge, and in that province resisted the strongest applications, even of the king himself, though he did it no where else: he also commends him as chancellor, for filling the church livings with learned men, and obliging them to constant residence.

ing the cause of God the best we can, there is none given. It may very well be passive obedience went too high. Some drove Jehu like. If it appears they perceive they did so, ought there to be shame in that; or ought it not to be borne cheerfully? If their nakedness is laid open, and some Hams do insult*, still they should be above it, and overcome evil with good. I never thought good men had any harm by the ill natured speeches of malicious spirits. God knows the very best of men have infirmities; but they are ill men that retort them. However, after all is said, or can be said, a man must be quiet in his own breast if he can. When I began to write in this paper, I meant not one word of all I have said on this subject, but I know, good doctor, you will take it right, accept well of my good meaning towards you, and excuse my defects. I pretend not to argue; but where my wishes are earnest, I speak without reserve, sometimes by surprise: but take it as it is; I will not look back to examine; I know I need not to you.

* The papists accused the church of England of innovation and contradiction, with respect to resistance, or taking up arms against the king. *Ralph* observes, that in 1685, the clergy began to abate of their extravagant loyalty. When the bishops were ordered to publish the king's declaration of indulgence, as this was publishing what they thought to be illegal, or highly inconvenient, and being levelled at their own interests, says the champion for the orthodox sons of the church (*Caveat*), "they could not either in reason or conscience obey; this was putting violence on the consciences of the king's best subjects." Thus it was confessed at last, that the laws are the measure of obedience; that men have a right to withhold their obedience when it is likely to prove inconvenient to their own interest; and that some regard is due to the consciences of legal protestants, though none had been shown to them by protestant dissenters.

I am just now, when I have signed this, going to write to my sister, and will remember your charge.

Knowing you could not be at Lord Gainsborough's, I writ to Cotenham: I guess you have missed it. The waters did exceedingly well with the children. After they had done, Rachel was ill for twenty-four hours of a feverish distemper; but bleeding got it over. I am your willing friend to serve you, though others may more effectually.

31 Aug. 1689.

On the 10th Sept. 1689, Dr. Tillotson wrote from Edmon-ton to Lady Russell, giving her an account of the king's having conferred the bishopric of Chichester upon Dr. Patrick; and the rectory of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, falling to his majesty's disposal by this promotion, Dean Tillotson informed her ladyship, that he believed the king would not dispose of that living but to one whom the Earl of Bedford, the patron of it, should approve; and therefore asked her whether his lordship and she would be willing that the Earl of Nottingham should mention to his majesty on that occasion Dr. John More. In the same letter the dean takes notice of his having spoken to the king the Sunday before concerning Mr. Samuel Johnson, and that his majesty seemed well inclined to what he had moved for that divine, but did not positively determine to take that course. This refers to some request which Lady Russell had desired the dean to make to his majesty in favour of Mr. Johnson, for whom she had great zeal, out of regard both to the memory of her husband, whose chaplain he had been, and to the merit of his writings and sufferings.—*Birch*.

CIV.

DEAN TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

London, Sept. 19, 1689.

HONOURED MADAM,

I RECEIVED both your letters, and before the latter came to my hands I gave your ladyship some kind of

answer to the first, as the time would let me, for the post stayed for it. But having now a little more leisure, you will, I hope, give me leave to trouble you with a longer letter.

I was not at Hampton Court last Sunday, being almost tired out with ten weeks attendance, so that I have had no opportunity to try further in the business I wrote of in my last, but hope to bring it to some issue the next opportunity I can get to speak with the king. I am sorry to see Mr. Johnson* so broad a mixture of human frailty, with so considerable virtues. But when I look into myself, I must think it pretty well, when any man's infirmities are in any measure overbalanced by his better qualities. This good man I am speaking of has at some times not used me over well; for which I do not only forgive him, when I

* In a paper to justify Lord Russell's opinion, "that resistance may be used in case our religion and rights should be invaded," as an answer to the dean's letter to his lordship of 20 July, 1683, Johnson observes, that this opinion could not be wrested from his lordship at his death, notwithstanding the disadvantages at which he was taken, when he was practised upon to retract that opinion, and to bequeath a legacy of slavery to his country. And indeed the dean was so apprehensive of Lady Russell's displeasure at his pressing his lordship, though with the best intentions, upon that subject, that when he was first admitted to her after her lord's death, he is said to have addressed her in this manner: That he first thanked God, and then her ladyship, for that opportunity of justifying himself to her; and they soon returned to the terms of a cordial and unreserved friendship.—*Birch*. Mr. Johnson wrote Julian the Apostate, to prove the legality of resistance, and an address to James II.'s army: he was fined, imprisoned pilloried, and whipped, after being degraded. The revolution restored him to his liberty: the judgment against him in 1686 was declared illegal and cruel, and his degradation null: and the house of lords recommended him to king William. He died 1703.—*Birch*. He refused the rich deanery of Durham.

consider for whose sake he did it, but do heartily love him.

The king, besides his first bounty to Mr. Walker*, whose modesty is equal to his merit, hath made him Bishop of Londonderry, one of the best bishoprics in Ireland; that so he may receive the reward of that great service in the place where he did it. It is incredible how much every body is pleased with what the king hath done in this matter; and then it is no small joy to see that God directs him wisely.

I will now give your ladyship a short account of his majesty's disposal of our English church preferments, which I think he has done as well as could be expected, in the midst of the powerful importunities of so many great men, in whom I discern too much of court art and contrivance for the preferment of their friends; yea, even in my good Lord Nottingham,

* Mr George Walker justly famous for his defence of Londonderry, in Ireland (when Lunde the governor would have surrendered it to James II.), was born of English parents in the county of Tyrone in that kingdom, and educated in the university of Glasgow, in Scotland: he was afterwards rector of Donnoghmore, not many miles from the city of Londonderry. Upon the revolution, he raised a regiment for the defence of the Protestants: and, upon the intelligence of King James having a design to besiege Londonderry, retired thither, being at last chosen governor of it. After the raising of that siege he came to England, where he was most graciously received by their majesties; and on the 19th of November, 1689, received the thanks of the house of commons, having just before published an account of that siege, and had a present of 5000*l*. He was created D. D. by the university of Oxford on the 26th Feb. 1689-90, in his return to Ireland, where he was killed the beginning of July, 1690, at the passage to the Boyne, having resolved to serve that campaign before he took possession of his bishopric.—*Birch*.

more than I could wish. This is a melancholy consideration to one in my station, in which I do not see how it is possible so to manage a man's self between civility and sincerity, between being willing to give good words to all, and able to do good to very few, as to hold out an honest man, or even the reputation of being so, a year to an end.

I promised a short account, but I am long before I come to it. The Dean of St. Paul's*, Bishop of Worcester; the Dean of Peterborough†, of Chichester; an humble servant of yours, Dean of St. Paul's; the Dean of Norwich‡ is Dean of Canterbury; and Dr. Stanley, clerk of his majesty's closet, is residentiary of St. Paul's; and Dr. Fairfax Dean of Norwich. The Warden of All Souls§ in Oxford, is Prebendary of Canterbury; and Mr. Nixon hath the other prebend there, void by the death of Dr. Jeffreys. These two last merited of the king in the West, Mr. Finch by going in early to him, and Mr. Nixon, who is my Lord of Bath's chaplain, by carrying messages between the king and my Lord of Bath, as the king himself told me, with the hazard of his life. St. Andrew's and Covent Garden are not yet disposed. Dr. Birch (which I had almost forgot) is prebendary of Westminster; and, which grieves me much, Mons. Alix put by at present; but my lord privy seal|| would not be denied. The whole is as well as could easily be in the present circumstances.

* Dr. Stillingfleet.

† Dr. Simon Patrick.

‡ Dr. John Sharp.

§ Leopold William Finch, fifth son of Heneage, Earl of Winchelsea.—*Birch*.

|| Marquis of Halifax.

But now begins my trouble. After I had kissed the king's hand for the deanery of St. Paul's, I gave his majesty my most humble thanks, and told him, that now he had set me at ease for the remainder of my life. He replied, "No such matter, I assure you;" and spoke plainly about a great place, which I dread to think of, and said, "It was necessary for his service, and he must charge it upon my conscience." Just as he had said this, he was called to supper, and I had only time to say, that when his majesty was at leisure I did believe I could satisfy him that it would be most for his service, that I should continue in the station in which he had now placed me. This hath brought me into a real difficulty. For on the one hand, it is hard to decline his majesty's commands, and much harder yet to stand out against so much goodness as his majesty is pleased to use towards me; on the other, I can neither bring my inclination nor my judgment to it. This I owe to the Bishop of Salisbury, one of the worst and best friends I know! best, for his singular good opinion of me; and the worst, for directing the king to this method, which I know he did; as if his lordship and I had concerted the matter how to finish this foolish piece of dissimulation, in running away from a bishoprick* to catch an archbishoprick.

* Tillotson wrote before to a nobleman (supposed the Earl of Portland) begging he might be excused from accepting a bishopric. Birch remarks, instances of this kind of self-denial will perhaps be thought rare in any age; but there was a remarkable one under Henry VIII. of another Dean of Canterbury, well known by his embassies and public negotiations, Dr. Nicholas Wotton, great uncle of Sir Henry Wotton. This great politician, as well as divine, being informed of an intention to advance him to the mitre, wrote to Dr. Bellasis from

This fine device hath thrown me so far into the briers, that without his majesty's great goodness I shall never get off without a scratched face. And now I will tell your ladyship the bottom of my heart. I have of a long time, I thank God for it, devoted myself to the public service without any regard to myself, and to that end have done the best I could in the best manner I was able. Of late God hath been pleased by very severe ways*, but in great goodness to me, to wean me perfectly from the love of this world; so that worldly greatness is now not only undesirable, but distasteful to me; and I do verily believe, that I shall be able to do as much or more good in my present station, than in a higher, and shall not have one jot less interest or influence upon any others to any good purpose; for the people naturally love a man that will take great pains and little preferment. But on the other hand, if I could force my inclination to take this great place, I foresee that I should sink under it, and grow melancholy and good for nothing, and after a little while die as a fool dies.

But this madam, is a great deal too much, upon one of the worst and nicest subjects in the world, a man's self.

Dusseldorp, Nov. 11th, 1539, requesting him, for the passion of God, to convey that bishoprick from him. "So I might (adds he) avoid it without displeasure, I would surely never meddle with it; there be enough that be meet for it, and will not refuse it. I cannot marvel enough, *cur obtrudatur non cupienti immo ne idoneo quidem*. My mind is as troubled as my writing is.—Yours to his little power, Nicholas Wotton. Add whatsoever you will more to it, if you add not *bishop*."

* The loss of his children, and having been seized with an apoplectic disorder.

As I was finishing this long letter, which if your goodness will forgive, I hope never to have occasion to try it so far again, I received your letter, and shall say no more of Dr. More, of whose preaching I always knew your ladyship's opinion. The person I mentioned was Mr. Kidder, on whom the king has bestowed the deanery of Peterborough, and therefore cannot have it. I am fully of your ladyship's opinion, that what my Lord Bedford does in this matter must not appear to be done by him, for fear of bringing other importunities upon the king. If my Lord thinks well of Doctor Horneck, Dr. More would then certainly have St. Andrew's.

I thank God for the health your family enjoys, as for that of my own; and equally pray for the continuance of it, and all other blessings. I would fain find room to tender my humble service to my Lord Bedford, my Lord Russell, and two of the best young ladies I know. I am, honoured madam, more than I can express,

Your most obliged and obedient servant.

CV.

LADY RUSSELL TO THE DEAN OF ST. PAUL'S.

WHENEVER, Mr. Dean, you are disposed, and at leisure to give it me, I can be well content, I assure you, to read the longest letter you can write. But I had not so soon told a truth you cannot choose but know, if this paper was not to be hastened to you with a little errand that I am well enough pleased to be employed in; because the effect will be good,

though the cause does not please me; being, you said, Mr. Kidder* cannot have Covent Garden, because he is Dean of Peterborough (though I do not conceive why, unless it is because he is great, and others are not). But Lord Bedford leans strongly to offer him to the king; it is from what you said to me has made him do so. Yet if you judge he should not now be the man, I am enjoined to obtain from you some character of one Mr. Freeman†, and Mr. Williams‡; the last I have heard you speak well of, but I did not heed his just character. What you think fit to say to me shall not be imparted but in general terms, if you like that best; though Lord Bedford is as close as can be desired, and as well inclined as possible to do the best, and will have me say something of these men before he fixes, which my Lord Shrewsbury advises him to quickly.

More§ he is averse to; Horneck|| the parish is also, as he is well informed, to a high degree. So Kidder, Williams, and Freeman are before him. I desire two or three lines upon this subject, by the first post, if you please.

Though my paper is full enough, especially to a man that has no more spare time than you have, yet I must just touch upon some other parts of your letter,

* Rd. Kidder, afterwards Bishop of Bath and Wells (in Kenn's stead, 1691), was killed with his lady at Wells, by the fall of a stack of chimneys during the high wind, 27 Nov. 1703.

† Dr. Freeman died Dean of Peterborough, 1707.

‡ Williams, afterwards Bishop of Chichester, died 1709.

§ More died Bishop of Ely, 1714.

|| Horneck died Prebendary of Westminster, 1696-7.

being they touch me most sensibly. I bless God that inclines the heart of our king to do well; it looks as if God meant a full mercy to these long threatened kingdoms. I thank Mr. Dean very heartily for those thoughts that influence and heighten his charity to Mr. J——n. I will not say what I do more, but you must needs know. Mr. Dean, now a few words to your own concern, that bears so heavy upon your mind, and I have done. I know not if I should use the phrase, "integrity is my idol;" but I am sure I admire and love it hugely wherever I meet it. I would never have a sincere person crossed. I do pity you, Mr. Dean, and I think you have a hard game upon your hands, which if it should happen you cannot play off your own way, you can do better than a man less mortified to the world could; being if you serve the interest of religion and the king's, you are doing what you have dedicated yourself to, and therefore can be more regardless of the ignorant or wicked censurer; for, upon my word, I believe you will incur no other: your character is above it, if what you fear should come upon you. But as I conceive there are six months yet to deliberate upon this matter, you know the old saying, "many things fall out between the cup and the lip;" and pray do not fill your head with the fears of a trouble, though never so great, that is at a distance, and may never be; for if you think too much on a matter you dread, it will certainly disturb your quiet, and that will infallibly your health; and you cannot but see, sir, that would be of a bad consequence. The king is willing to hear you. You know your own heart to do good, and you have lived some time, and have had experience. You say well

that such a one is the best and worst friend. I think I should have had more tenderness to the will or temper of my friend; and for his justification, one may say, he prefers good to many, before gratifying one single person, and a public good ought to carry a man a great way. But I see your judgment (if your inclination does not bias too far) is heartily against him in this matter, that you think you cannot do so much good then as now. We must see if you can convince him thereof; and when he is master of that notion, then let him labour to make your way out of those briers he has done his part to bring you into; though something else would have done it without him, I believe, if I am not mistaken in this, no more than I am that this letter is much too long from, &c.

September, 1689.

CVI.

DEAN TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

Edmonton, Sept. 24, 1689.

HONOURED MADAM,

JUST now I received your ladyship's letter. Since my last, and not before, I understand the great averseness of the parish from Dr. Horneck; so that if my Lord of Bedford had liked him, I could not have thought it fit, knowing how necessary it is to the good effect of a man's ministry that he do not lie under any great prejudice with the people. The two whom the Bishop of Chichester hath named are, I think, of the worthiest of the city ministers, since Mr. Kidder declines

it, for the reason given by the bishop, and if he did not, could not have it; not because of any inconsistency in the preferments, but because the king, having so many obligations yet to answer, cannot, at the same time, give two such preferments to one man. For the two persons mentioned, if comparison must be made between two very good men, I will tell your ladyship my free thoughts of them.

Mr. Williams is really one of the best men I know, and most unwearied in doing good, and his preaching very weighty and judicious. The other is a truly pious man, and of a winning conversation. He preaches well, and hath much the more plausible delivery, and, I think, a stronger voice. Both of them (which I had almost forgot) have been steady in all changes of times. This is the plain truth; and yet I must not conceal one particular and present advantage on Dr. Freeman's side. On Sunday night last, the king asked me concerning a city minister, whose name he had forgot; but said, he had a very kind remembrance of him, having had much conversation with him, when his majesty was very young, in Holland, and wondered he had never seen him since he came into England.

I could not imagine who he should be, till his majesty told me he was the English ambassador's chaplain above twenty years ago, meaning Sir William Temple's. Upon that I knew it was Dr. Freeman. The king said that was his name, and desired me to find him out, and tell him that he had not forgot him, but remembered with pleasure the acquaintance he had with him many years ago; and charged me, when there was an opportunity, to put him in mind

of him. This I thought both great goodness in the king, and modesty in Dr. Freeman*, never to show himself to the king all this while. By this your ladyship will judge, who is like to be most acceptable to the king, whose satisfaction, as well as service, I am obliged to regard, especially in the disposal of his own preferments, though Mr. Williams be much more my friend.

I mentioned Mr. Johnson again, but his majesty put on other discourse; and my lord privy seal told me, yesterday morning, that the king thought it a little hard to give pensions out of his purse, instead of church preferments; and tells me Mr. Johnson is very sharp upon me. His lordship called it railing, but it shall not move me in the least. His lordship asked me, whether it would not be well to move the king to give him a good bishoprick in Ireland, there being several void. I thought it very well if it would be acceptable. His lordship said, that was all one; the offer would stop many mouths as well as his: which, I think, was well considered.

I will say no more of myself, but only thank your ladyship for your good advice, which I have always a great disposition to follow, and a great deal of reason, being assured it is sincere as well as wise. The king hath set upon me again, with greater earnestness of persuasion than is fit for one that may command. I begged as earnestly to be considered in this thing, and so we parted upon good terms. I hope something will happen to hinder it. I put it out of my

* Dr. Freeman was instituted to the rectory of Covent Garden, Dec. 28, 1689.

mind as much as I can, and leave it to the good providence of God for the thing to find its own issue. To that I commend you and yours ; and am, madam,
Yours, by all possible obligation.

If Mr. Johnson refuse this offer, and it should be my hard fortune not to be able to get out of this difficulty (which I will, if it be possible to do it without provocation), I know one that will do more for Mr. Johnson than was desired of the king, but still as from the king, for any thing that he shall know. But, I hope, some much better way will be found ; and that there will be neither occasion nor opportunity for this*.

CVII.

LADY MONTAGUE TO LADY RUSSELL.

I AM very sorry, my dear sister, to find by yours, which I received by the last post, that your thoughts have been so much disturbed with what I thought ought to have some contrary effect†. It is very true, what is once taken from us, in that nature, can never be returned ; all that remains of comfort (according to my temper) is a bringing to punishment those who were so wickedly and unjustly the cause of it.

I confess, it was a great satisfaction to me to hear

* The king granted Johnson 300*l.* a year for his own and his son's life, with 1000*l.* in money, and a place of 100*l.* a year for his son.

† This probably alludes to the committee of the house of commons to examine who were the advisers and promoters of the murder of Lord Russell, &c.

that was the public care; it being so much to the honour, as well as what in justice was due to your dear lord, that I do not doubt, when your sad thoughts will give you leave to recollect, you will find comfort.

I heartily pray God you may, and that you may never have the addition of any other loss, which is and ever shall be the prayer of

Your entirely affectionate.

Boughton, 23d December, 1689.

CVIII.

TO LADY SUNDERLAND.

I THINK I understand almost less than any body, yet I knew better things than to be weary of receiving what is so good as my Lady Sunderland's letters; or not to have a due regard of what is so valuable as her esteem and kindness, with her promises to enjoy it my whole life. Truly, madam, I can find no fault but one, and that is constantly in all the favours you direct to me, an unfortunate useless creature in the world, yet your ladyship owns me as one that had been of some service to you. Alas! I know I was not, but my intention was pure: I pitied your sorrow; I was hearty in wishing you ease, and if I had an occasion for it, I could be diligent, but no further ability; and you are very good to receive it kindly. But, so unhappy a solicitor as I was once for my poor self and family, my heart misgives me when I aim at any thing of that kind any more. Yet I hope I have at last learned to make the will of God, when declared, the rule of my content, and to thank him for all the hard things I suffer as the best assurances of a large

share in that other blessed state ; and if what is dear to us is got thither before us, the sense what they enjoy, and we in a little while shall with them, ought to support us and our friends.

CIX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I ASSURE you, good doctor, I was very well pleased this evening, to receive another letter from you ; and much more than ordinary, because your last had some gentle hints in it, as if you thought I had taken some offence, though you kindly again said, you could not or would not imagine it, not being conscious of omission or commission ; and indeed you have good reason for saying so : I will at any time justify you in it, and do more commend your belief, that I either had not your letters, or was not well, than I could your mistrust of me for what will never happen. But an old dated paper has convinced you, and a newer had, if I had known where to have found you ; for in yours of the 5th of August you intimate that you meant (if it did not too much offend the eyes of a friend of mine that were weak) to make a stay at Windsor of ten days longer, and made no mention then whither you went. Now truly I had that letter, when I was obliged to write much to such as would congratulate my being well again, some in kindness, and some in ceremony. But so it was, that when I went to write, I found I should not know where to send it ; so I deferred it till I had learned that. I sent to Mrs. Smith ; she could not tell : I bade John send to Richard at Stratton, to know if you were at Chilton, for I know

Lady Gainsborough was not there then ; but now you have informed me yourself.

By report I fear poor Lady Gainsborough is in new trouble : for though she has all the help of religion to support her, yet that does not shut us out from all sorrow ; it does not direct us to insensibility if we could command it, but to a quiet submission to the will of God, making his ours as much as we can. Indeed, doctor, you are extremely in the right to think that my life has been so imbittered, it is now a very poor thing to me ; yet I find myself careful enough of it. I think I am useful to my children, and would endure hard things to do for them till they can do for themselves ; but, alas ! I am apt to conclude, if I had not that, yet I should still find out some reason to be content to live, though I am weary of every thing, and of the folly, the vanity, the madness of man most of all.

There is a shrinking from the separation of the soul from the body, that is implanted in our natures, which enforces us to conserve life : and it is a wise providence ; for who would else endure much evil, that is not taught the great advantages of patient sufferings ? I am heartily sorry, good doctor, that you are not exempt, which I am sure you are not, when you cannot exercise your care as formerly among your flock at Cotenham*. But I will not enlarge on this matter, nor any other at this time. That I might be certain not to omit this respect to you, I have begun with it, and have many behind, to which I must hasten, but first desire you will present my

* Ejected as a nonjuror.

most humble service to my lady: I had done myself the honour to write to her, just as I believe she was writing to me, but I will thank her yet for that favour. Either trouble or the pleasure of her son's settlement engrosses her, I apprehend, at this time, and business I know is an attendant of the last.

I am, sir,

Your constant friend and servant.

Woburn Abbey, 28th August, 1690.

CX.

DEAN TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

Edmonton, 9th Oct. 1690.

HONOURED MADAM,

SINCE I had the honour of your letter, I was tempted to have troubled you with one of mine upon the sad occasion of your late great loss of two so near relations, and so near together*; but I considered, why should I pretend to be able either to instruct or comfort my Lady Russell, who hath borne things much more grievous with so exemplary a meekness and submission to the will of God, and knows, as well as I can tell her, that there is no remedy in these cases but patience, nor any comfort but in the hopes of the happy meeting of our deceased friends in a better life, in which sorrow and tears shall have no more place to all eternity!

And now I crave leave to impart something of my own trouble to your ladyship. On Sunday last the

* The death of her sister, the Countess of Montague, and of her nephew, Wriothlesley Baptist, Earl of Gainsborough.

king commanded me to wait upon him the next morning at Kensington. I did so, and met with what I feared. His majesty renewed his former gracious offer, in so pressing a manner, and with so much kindness, that I hardly knew how to resist it. I made the best acknowledgments I could of his undeserved grace and favour to me, and begged of him to consider all the consequences of this matter, being well assured that all the storm which was raised in convocation the last year by those who will be the church of England, was upon my account, and that the Bishop of L— was at the bottom of it, out of a jealousy that I might be a hinderance to him in attaining what he desires, and what, I call God to witness, I would not have: and I told his majesty, that I was still afraid that his kindness to me would be greatly to his prejudice, especially if he carried it so far as he was then pleased to speak: for I plainly saw they could not bear it; and that the effects of envy and ill will towards me would terminate upon him. To which he replied, that if the thing were once done, and they saw no remedy, they would give over, and think of making the best of it; and therefore he must desire me to think seriously of it; with other expressions not fit for me to repeat. To all which I answered, that, in obedience to his majesty's commands, I would consider of it again, though I was afraid I had already thought more of it than had done me good, and must break through one of the greatest resolutions of my life, and sacrifice at once all the ease and contentment of it; which yet I would force myself to do, were I really convinced, that I was in any measure capable of doing his majesty and the public that service which

he was pleased to think I was. He smiled, and said, "You talk of trouble; I believe you will have much more ease in it, than in the condition in which you now are." Thinking not fit to say more, I humbly took leave.

And now, madam, what shall I do? My thoughts were never at such a plunge. I know not how to bring my mind to it; and on the other hand, though the comparison is very unequal, when I remember how I saw the king affected in the case of my Lord of Shrewsbury*, I find myself in great strait, and would not for all the world give him the like trouble. I pray God to direct me to that which he sees and knows to be best, for I know not what to do. I hope I shall have your prayers, and would be glad of your advice, if the king would spare me so long. I pray God to preserve you and yours.

I am, honoured madam, &c.

CXI.

TO THE DEAN OF ST. PAUL'S.

YOUR letters will never trouble me, Mr. Dean; on the contrary, they are comfortable refreshments to my, for the most part, overburdened mind, which, both by nature and by accident, is made so weak, that I cannot bear, with that constancy I should, the losses I have lately felt; I can say, Friends and acquaintances thou hast hid out of my sight: but I hope it shall not disturb my peace. These were young, and as they

* When that earl resigned the post of secretary of state about 1690, to divert him from which, Dean Tillotson had been sent to his lordship by the king.—*Burnet*, vol. ii. p. 45.

had began their race of life after me, so I desired they might have ended it also. But happy are those whom God retires in his grace—I trust these were so; and then no age can be amiss: to the young it is not too early, nor to the aged too late. Submission and prayer is all we know that we can do towards our own relief in our distresses, or to disarm God's anger, either in our public or private concerns. The scene will soon alter to that peaceful and eternal home in prospect. But in this time of our pilgrimage, vicissitudes of all sorts are every one's lot. And this leads me to your case, sir.

The time seems to be come that you must put anew in practice that submission* you have so powerfully both tried yourself, and instructed others to: I see no place to escape at; you must take up the cross, and bear it: I faithfully believe it has the figure of a very heavy one to you, though not from the cares of it; since, if the king guesses right, you toil more now; but this work is of your own choosing, and the dignity of the other is what you have bent your mind against, and the strong resolve of your life has been to avoid it. Had this even proceeded to a vow, it is, I think, like the virgins of old, to be dissolved by the father of your country. Again, though contemplation, and a few friends well chosen, would be your grateful choice, yet if charity, obedience, and necessity call you into the great world, and where enemies encompass round about, must not you accept it? And each

* Submission alludes to Tillotson's letter to Lord Russell against resistance. A shrewd hint of the dean's endeavours to persuade Lord Russell to submit to the doctrine of passive obedience.

of these, in my mean apprehension, determines you to do it. In short, it will be a noble sacrifice you will make, and I am confident you will find, as a reward, kind and tender supports, if you do take the burthen upon you: there is, as it were, a commanding providence in the manner of it. Perhaps I do as sincerely wish your thoughts at ease as any friend you have, but I think you may purchase that too dear; and if you should come to think so too, they would then be as restless as before.

Sir, I believe you would be as much a common good as you can. Consider how few of ability and integrity this age produces. Pray, do not turn this matter too much in your head: when one has once turned it every way, you know that more does but perplex, and one never sees the clearer for it. Be not stiff if it be still urged to you. Conform to the Divine Will, which has set it so strongly into the other's mind, and be content to endure; it is God calls you to it. I believe it was wisely said, that when there is no remedy they will give it over, and make the best of it, and so I hope no ill will terminate on the king; and they will lay up their arrows when they perceive they are shot in vain at him or you, upon whom no reflection that I can think of can be made that is ingenious; and what is pure malice you are above being affected with.

I wish, for many reasons, my prayers were more worthy; but such as they are, I offer them with a sincere zeal to the throne of grace for you in this strait, that you may be led out of it, as shall best serve the great ends and designs of God's glory.

[About the middle of October, 1690.]

CXII.

DEAN TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

25th October, 1690 *.

HONOURED MADAM,

I AM obliged to your ladyship beyond all expression, for taking my case so seriously into your consideration, and giving me your mature thoughts upon it. Nothing ever came more seasonably to me than your letter, which I received on Wednesday se'nnight, the very night before I was to have given my final answer to the king the next morning. I thank you for it. It helped very much to settle and determine my wavering mind. I weighed all you wrote, both your advice and your arguments, having not only an assurance of your true friendship and good will for me, but a very great regard and deference for your judgment and opinion. I cannot but own the weight of that consideration which you are pleased to urge me withal; I mean the visible marks of a more than ordinary providence of God in this thing; that the king, who likes not either to importune or to be denied, should, after so obstinate a declining of the thing on my part, still persist to press it upon me with so much kindness, and with that earnestness of persuasion which it does not become me to mention. I wish I could think the king had a superior direction in this, as I verily believe he hath in some other things of much greater importance.

The next morning I went to Kensington full of fear,

* From a copy in short hand, in his common place book.

but yet determined what was fit for me to do. I met the king coming out of his closet, and asking if his coach was ready. He took me aside, and I told him, that, in obedience to his majesty's command, I had considered of the thing as well as I could, and came to give him my answer. I perceived his majesty was going out, and therefore desired him to appoint me another time, which he did on the Saturday morning after.

Then I came again, and he took me into his closet, where I told him, that I could not but have a deep sense of his majesty's great grace and favour to me, not only to offer me the best thing he had to give, but to press it so earnestly upon me. I said, I would not presume to argue the matter any farther, but I hoped he would give me leave to be still his humble and earnest petitioner to spare me in that thing. He answered, he would do so if he could, but he knew not what to do if I refused it. Upon that I told him, that I tendered my life to him, and did humbly devote it to be disposed of as he thought fit. He was graciously pleased to say, it was the best news had come to him this great while. I did not kneel down to kiss his hand, for without that I doubt I am too sure of it; but requested of him, that he would defer the declaration of it, and let it be a secret for some time. He said he thought it might not be amiss to defer it till the parliament was up. I begged farther of him, that he would not make me a wedge to drive out the present archbishop: that some time before I was nominated, his majesty would be pleased to declare in council, that since his lenity had not had any better effect, he would wait no more, but would dispose of

their places. This I told him I humbly desired, that I might not be thought to do any thing harsh, or which might reflect upon me; for now that his majesty had thought fit to advance me to this station, my reputation was become his interest. He said, he was sensible of it, and thought it reasonable to do as I desired. I craved leave of him to mention one thing more, which in justice to my family, especially to my wife, I ought to do; that I should be more than undone by the great and necessary charge of coming into this place, and must therefore be an humble petitioner to his majesty that if it should please God to take me out of the world, that I must unavoidably leave my wife a beggar, he would not suffer her to be so; and that he would graciously be pleased to consider, that the widow of an Archbishop of Canterbury (which would now be an odd figure in England*) could not decently be supported by so little as would have contented her very well, if I had died a dean. To this he gave a very gracious answer—"I promise you to take care of her†."

Just as I had finished the last sentence, another very kind letter from your ladyship was brought to me, wherein I find your tender concern for me, which I can never sufficiently acknowledge. But you say, the die is now cast, and I must now make the best

* Only two who had filled the see of Canterbury had been married; Cranmer and Parker.

† King William granted Tillotson's widow an annuity of 600*l.* and forgave the first fruits; for the archbishop left nothing to his family but the copy of his posthumous sermons, which was afterwards sold for 2,500 guineas. She died 20th Jan. 1701-2.

I can of what I lately thought was the worst that could have happened to me. I thank God I am more cheerful than I expected, and comfort myself as I can with this hope, that the providence of God, to which I have submitted my own will in this matter, will graciously assist me to discharge, in some measure, the duty he hath called me to.

I did not acquaint my good friend, who wrote to you, with all that had passed, because it was intended to be a secret, which I am sure is safe in your hands, I only told him, that his majesty did not intend, as yet, to dispose of this place; but when he did it, I was afraid it would be hard for me to escape.

The king, I believe, has only acquainted the queen with it, who, as she came out of the closet on Sunday last, commanded me to wait upon her after dinner, which I did; and after she had discoursed about other business (which was to desire my opinion of a treatise sent her in manuscript out of Holland, tending to the reconciliation of our differences in England), she told me, that the king had with great joy acquainted her with a secret concerning me, whereof she was no less glad; using many gracious expressions, and confirming his majesty's promises concerning my wife.

But I am sensible this is an intolerable letter, especially concerning one's self.

I had almost forgot to mention Mr. Vaughan's* business. As soon as he brought your ladyship's letter hither to me, I wrote immediately to Whitehall, and got the business stopped.

* Probably a relation to Lady Russell, whose first husband was Lord Vaughan, eldest son to the Earl of Carbery.

The Bishop of St. David's * had written up for some minister of a great town, but a small living in that diocese, that it might be bestowed on him for his pains in that great town. The pretence is fair, but if the minister is no better a man than the bishop, I am sure he is not worthy of it. I have been twice to wait on my Lord Nottingham about it, but missed of him. When I have inquired farther into it, if the thing be fit to be done, I will do my best for Mr. Vaughan. And I beg of your ladyship to make no difficulty of commanding my poor service upon any occasion, for I am always truly glad of the opportunity.

I cannot forbear to repeat my humble thanks for your great concernment for me in this affair †.

That God would multiply his best blessings upon your ladyship and your children, and make them great blessings and comforts to you, is the daily prayer of,

Madam,

Your most obliged humble servant.

* Watson, Bishop of St. David's, was deprived for simony, 1699, by Archbishop Tennison. He took the oaths to King William, yet continued attached to King James.

† Archbishop Sancroft was deprived Feb. 1st, 1690-1, Tillotson nominated in council to the archbishoprick, 1691, and consecrated 31st May. He died Nov. 23, 1694.—King William declared that he was the best man whom he ever knew, and the best friend whom he ever had. The queen for many days spoke of him in the tenderest manner, and not without tears.—*Burnet*.

CXIII.

TO LADY RANELAGH *.

MADAM,

I HAVE now before me yours of the 12th, and can read it with the same eagerness as when it came first to me, and so must any body that you show so much favour to, as to entertain them in the like manner. Every one is an instruction for a whole life, and a nourishment for many days; and indeed I had yet, I think, fed on it longer, without exciting you to new trouble, the rather because my servant sent me word you had been more than ordinary indisposed, but, blessed be God, he says, you are not so now. And therefore I submit, in order to the design I have to serve a very good lady all I can, to trouble your ladyship, and to consult you if you please in the matter. And I think you are never displeased on such occasions, more especially if you can have opportunity to be instrumental in effecting what does good to any. Now to my business.

We are told that Mr. Middleton is in a dying condition; his place in the Prize-office is worth about 400*l.* a year; it is, though, as I apprehend, so only during a war, and so the less valuable; however, Lady Anne Wingate would be contented if it could be obtained for Sir Francis. I believe Lady Anglesey is the tenderer in the point, by reason Mrs. Middleton

* Wife of Robert Jones, Earl of Ranelagh, a man of great parts and as great vices. He had the art of pleasing masters of very different tempers and interests, so much that he continued above thirty years in great posts, and was looked upon as one of the ablest men Ireland had bred.—*Tindal.*

is so intimate a friend ; and truly, though I am not so, I would not do so unworthy a thing as to solicit to her prejudice. But how it is so, if one desires to see a reversion be not granted to some other than our friend, I do not understand ; yet would certainly cease if I did. Your ladyship will better know that than I do. But if it does her no wrong, I dare say you would most willingly gratify your friend Lady Anglesey and her daughter, in doing what can be for them ; and as such I address myself to your ladyship, from whom I can ask no more than when you see Lord Devonshire to mention the thing to him, and your wishes in it ; and if you think fit, as a thing you know I offered to him, from my Lord Bedford, and my own account ; though I know there will not want that to enforce, when he knows your will in it ; I know so well his respect to your ladyship. However, Lord Bedford and myself would show our readiness to serve my Lady Anne and Sir Francis, and the more friends join will not recommend it less to my Lord Devonshire, if he can do any thing in it.

I have writ to him Lord Bedford's thoughts of Sir Francis ; which are, that he is an understanding, honest gentleman ; and has almost exceeded any in this country in his zeal and activeness towards the present government.

CXIV.

TO LORD DEVONSHIRE.

MY LORD,

BECAUSE I think all apologies are troublesome, I will not make any for sending you this paper, which comes to your lordship with a joint request from my Lord

Bedford and myself, if you can befriend us in it. I know your lordship needs not be pressed; your own nature moves you to oblige petitioners, as many as you can. The business is this: we hear that Mr. Middleton is very near dying; he has a place in the Prize-office; it is worth about 400*l.* a year. Sir Francis Wingate, a gentleman in this country, that married a daughter of Lady Anglesey, would fain succeed him: my Lord Bedford would most willingly gratify him if he could. The character he gives him is, that he is an honest understanding gentleman, and has showed all the zeal and good affection to the present government, that is possible for any man to do with an activeness irreprovable.

My Lady Ranelagh will, I guess, let you see she is engaged in this matter, which I will say no more in: but if it is in your lordship's way to do him the courtesy, I shall be glad; if it is not, I shall be sorry for this trouble I have been engaged to give your lordship, whose humble servant I am, for my whole life.

CXV.

TO MADAME ROUVIGNY.

DIEU nous a frappé, ma chere madame, d'un coup qui nous paroît fort rude; mais Dieu ne pense pas comme l'homme pense, et il faut croire qu'il ne prend pas plaisir à tourmenter ses pauvres créatures. Mais que songions-nous, que Dieu salut se détourner de son chemin en ses providences, pour notre contentement? Non, assurément, il faut nous supporter le mieux que nous puissions sur toutes sortes d'évène-

ments, et vivre en espérance qu'un jour nous verrons plus clairement la raison de tous ses noirs dispensations qui nous attaquent, qui nous touchent si vivement.

Madame, je ne combats pas votre vide douleur, vous le devoyez, à un fils, et à un homme si brave et si aimé, ôté du monde *.

Il a aussi toutes sortes de consolations qu'on peut possible atteindre, en la manière de sa mort: en toutes ses dernieres actions, mon ame me fait fort espérer qu'il fut accepté, et que son ame se repose en la bras de cet Sauveur en qui il se reposoit avec tant de foi. Dieu veut, madame, que vous et moi faisons nos devoirs en telle sorte que les accidents qui nous peuvent arriver ne nous detournent pas des sentiers de Dieu; mais au contraire nous ayant à passer doucement les peu de jours qui nous restent devant que nous entrons dans ces délices éternelles qu'il nous prepare. Jusqu' à ce heureux moment,

Je suis, &c.

CXVI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THERE is so much in those little sheets you sent me to thank you for, that finding myself very ill fitted to do it, I was tempted to let it quite alone, till I made shift to consider, that for the most part our temptations incline us to the worst things, and to the most forbidden tempers. This makes me rise from that listless-

* Mons. Rouvigny (eldest brother of the late Earl of Galway), a gallant officer, slain fighting under King William, at the battle of the Boyne, July 1st, 1690.

ness I continually drop into, till I have at least told you how sensible I am of your kindness on all occasions; and I am sensible too how strong and pious all your offers of comfort to a disquieted mind are, and I hope that, by often perusing them, they will so affect me, that the effect shall correspond to your Christian wishes and prayers for me, and I shall obtain a better freedom of mind than I am mistress of at present, since you conjecture very truly, every new stroke to a weary, battered carcass makes me struggle the harder; and though I lost with my best friend all the delights of living, yet I find I did not a quick sense of new grief, for want of due considering that whatever below God is the object of our love, will at some time or other be the matter of our sorrow. These two, my sister * and a dear sister's son †, began their course after me, but have ended it sooner. I would have had it otherwise, but I was vain and foolish in it: God knows where it is best to place his creatures. Your prayers are indeed of more use than your fears, for my health is good; but I love greatly the prayers of my friends, that I may be resigned in the case of my children: for this trial has so experienced to me my sad weakness, that I doubt myself, and humbly beg in mercy but not in judgment that I may be spared that trial ‡.

* Elizabeth Countess of Montague.

† Wriothesley Baptist, Earl of Gainsborough, died September, 1690.

‡ Conclusion wanting.

CXVII.

TO (*supposed*) THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

I HAVE, my Lord, so upright a heart to my friends, that though your great weight of business had forced you to a silence of this kind, yet I should have had no doubt, but that one I so distinguished in that little number God has yet left me, does join with me to lament my late losses. The one was a just, sincere man, and the only son of a sister and a friend I loved with too much passion; the other my last sister, and I ever loved her tenderly.

It pleases me to think that she deserves to be remembered by all those that knew her. But after above forty years' acquaintance with so amiable a creature, one must needs, in reflecting, bring to remembrance so many engaging endearments as are yet at present imbittering and painful; and indeed we may be sure, that when any thing below God is the object of our love, at one time or another it will be a matter of our sorrow. But a little time will put me again into my settled state of mourning; for a mourner I must be all my days upon earth, and there is no need I should be other. My glass runs low; the world does not want me, nor I want that; my business is at home, and within a narrow compass. I must not deny, as there was something so glorious in the object of my biggest sorrow, I believe that in some measure kept me from being then overwhelmed: so now it affords me, together with the remembrance how many easy years we lived together, thoughts that are joy enough for one, who looks no higher than

a quiet submission to her lot, and such pleasures in educating the young folks as surmount the cares that it will afford. If I shall be spared the trial, where I have most thought of being prepared to bear the pain, I hope I shall be thankful, and I think I ask it faithfully, that it may be in mercy not in judgment. Let me rather be tortured here, than they or I be rejected in that other blessed peaceful home to all ages, to which my soul aspires. There is something in the younger going before me, that I have observed all my life to give a sense I cannot describe; it is harder to be borne than a bigger loss, where there has been spun out a longer thread of life. Yet I see no cause for it; for every day we see the young fall with the old: but methinks it is a violence upon nature.

A troubled mind has a multitude of these thoughts: yet I hope I master all murmurings. If I have had any, I am sorry, and will have no more, assisted by God's grace; and rest satisfied, that whatever I think, I shall one day be entirely satisfied what God has done and shall do, will be best, and justify both his justice and mercy. I meant this as a very short epistle; but you have been some years acquainted with my infirmity, and have endured it, though you never had waste time, I believe, in your life; and better times do not, I hope, make your patience less. However, it will become me to put an end to this, which I will do, signing myself cordially

Yours, &c.

16 Oct. 1690.

CXVIII.

TO LORD CAVENDISH.

THOUGH I know my letters do Lord Cavendish no service, yet as a respect I love to pay him, and to thank him also for his last from Limbeck, I had not been so long silent, if the death of two persons, both very near and dear to me, had not made me so uncomfortable to myself, that I knew I was utterly unfit to converse where I would never be ill company. The separation of friends is grievous. My sister Montague was one I loved tenderly; my Lord Gainsborough was the only son of a sister I loved with too much passion. They both deserved to be remembered kindly by all that knew them. They both began their race long after me, and I hoped should have ended it so too: but the great and wise Disposer of all things, and who knows where it is best to place his creatures, either in this or in the other world, has ordered it otherwise. The best improvement we can make in these cases, and you, my dear lord, rather than I, whose glass runs low, whilst you are young, and I hope have many happy years to come, is, I say, that we should all reflect there is no passing through this to a better world without some crosses; and the scene sometimes shifts so fast, our course of life may be ended before we think we have gone half way; and that a happier eternity depends on our spending well or ill that time allotted us here for probation.

Live virtuously, my lord, and you cannot die too

soon, nor live too long. I hope the last shall be your lot, with many blessings attending it.

Your, &c.

29 Oct. 1690.

CXIX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THOUGH your letter to me, which I now answer, was writ from Windsor, 25th of January, yet was not read by me till very lately; for it happening to come in a time I was under some more than ordinary discomposure of mind, it was not given into my hand, at least I knew it not, but laid it (or as I believe my servants laid it for me) in a place I used to put things out of my pocket into, and happened not to regard it in several days, or I would have said something upon it a little sooner, being through God's goodness in a great measure relieved from my fear for my poor boy, who on Tuesday was se'nnight had so violent a cough, that in a day after, it gave suspicions of some other ill attending it. Measles I thought most likely; and spots did appear on Thursday, and so high, with such an aspect, that the doctor thought it the small-pox. On Friday he was so sick and so ill, I sent for more doctors, and three of them feared it the small-pox, and if so, of the worst that could be; but they said till Sunday they could not be positive. It pleased God they saw enough on Saturday night to ease my heart so much as to assure me it was the measles. He has gone on very well since, and is now past the measles themselves, and I hope will in a little time be so of the ill consequences which often follow that

disease; his cough is still remaining, and will now, I believe, till he purges or bleeds. I trust, that as I have had grace to ask it, so his life is granted me in mercy and not in judgment.

As to your affairs, they stand as they did for many reasons. I went that very Tuesday my child fell ill, to have seen the queen, in order a day or two after to have seen the princess; but it so fell out, I saw neither, and must not for a while; neither have I seen the dean* since you went the last time; he had a severe cold upon him, and said he would go into the country for air. Your information concerning the dean, I believe in part to be true, but not in the whole; as thus: I believe the dean thinks it is fit Mr. Hartlib should be considered; but never pitched on this, or that, only that he should have something, but did not recommend him to this; and I conclude so far from this reason; that when Doctor Sharp spoke to the Lord Nottingham, to desire so much as to know whether he had spoke to the king in such a one's behalf or not, that he might recommend such a one (Jekyl by name) or whether he would think fit do it at all? His answer was, it was out of his hand; it lay between the king and the dean; for Hartlib had been recommended, and the Dean of St. Paul's had put in a caveat.

Now if the dean had recommended the man, he might then at the same time have obtained the condition, and not put in a caveat. So I do not go upon what the dean says, but what I gather elsewhere; though I faithfully believe any thing he says to be true.

* Of St. Paul's, Dr. Tillotson.

As to Mr. Jekyl, he speaks as well of him as you can do yourself; but whether he will labour to put by Mr. Hartlib, that he may be recommended, I cannot tell: when I see him, I will do all I can to serve you, if it goes his way. I dare be confident he will take a due care you shall not be put upon any thing that will be a contradiction to your circumstances.

As to the prebendary, I know not what to say to it. If you are not obliged to swear, why should you not modestly represent the matter where it will be understood? though I would advise you to be cautious, and make sure of something first, if that can be.

I am sorry you jar so with a prelate, that I am sure was tender towards you in the beginning of this government, and you believed it, and there was good reason to do so; but it seems he did something afterwards contrary to the first beginnings, which I am also sorry for, and wish you would soften (for your own sake) as much as you can. You must needs think, doctor, that the provocation the Bishop of Ely has given does you no service, every one knowing your intimacy there; yet as there is no reason you should, so I assure myself you will not suffer from it. But, on the other hand, you should be a little more wary: one should be wise, though harmless as doves. You may remember Lord Carmarthen said you was too late; which looks as if he knew the business: and yet the dean and he are not great; that is, I mean the dean is not his creature, though he may, and has, I believe, a respect for him; but his affairs lie in another way than to call him to be often where he is. If you saw how many walks I fetch to my

boy in a day, you would think I have done a great work to scribble all this, from

Your friend and servant.

5 February, 1690-1.

CXX.

ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

June 23, 1691 *.

HONOURED MADAM,

I RECEIVED your ladyship's letter, together with that to Mr. Fox, which I shall return to him on Wednesday morning, when I have desired Mr. Kemp to send him to me.

I entreat you to give my humble service to my Lord of Bedford, and to let his lordship know how far I have been concerned in this affair. I had notice first from Mr. Attorney General and Mr. Solicitor, and then my Lord * * *, that several persons, upon the account of publishing and dispersing several libels against me, were secured in order to prosecution: upon which I went to wait upon them severally, and earnestly desired of them, that no body might be punished upon my account; that this was not the first time I had experience of this kind of malice, which, how unpleasant soever to me, I thought it the isest way to neglect, and the best to forgive it†. None of them said any thing to me of Lord Russell,

* From his draught in shorthand.

† Upon a bundle of libels found among his papers after his death, he put no other inscription than this:—"These are libels; I pray God forgive the authors; I do."—*Sherlock*.

nor did it ever come into my thought to hinder any prosecution upon this account, whose reputation, I can truly say, is much dearer to me than mine own; and I was much more troubled at the barbarous usage done to his memory; and especially, since they have aggravated it by dispersing more copies; and, as I find by the letter to Mr. Fox, are supported in their insolence by a strong combination, I cannot but think it very fit for my Lord Bedford to bring them to condign punishment.

Twice last week I had my pen in my hand to have provoked you to a letter; and that I might once in my life have been beforehand with you in this way of kindness. I was both times hindered by the breaking in of company upon me. The errand of it would have been to have told you that, whether it be from stupidity, or from a present astonishment at the danger of my condition, or from some other cause, I find that I bear the burden I dreaded so much, a good deal better than I could have hoped. David's acknowledgment to God runs in my mind, "Who am I, O Lord God! or what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto; and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O Lord God*?" I hope that the same providence of God, which hath once overruled me in this thing, will some way or other turn it to good.

The queen's extraordinary favour to me, to a degree much beyond my expectation, is no small support to me; and I flatter myself with hopes, that my friends will continue their kindness to me; especially that

* 1 Chron. xvii. 16, 17.

the best friend I ever had will not be the less so to me now that I need friends most.

I pray to God continually to preserve you and yours ; and particularly at this time, to give my Lady Cavendish a happy meeting with her lord, and to grant them both a long and happy life together.

I am, madam,

Your most faithful and humble servant.

CXXI.

TO (*supposed*) ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON.

IN wants and distresses of all kinds one naturally flies to a sure friend, if one is blessed with any such. This is the reason of the present address to you, which is burthened with this request, if you think it fit, to give the enclosed to the queen. My letter is a petition to her majesty, to bestow upon a gentleman a place that is now fallen by the death of Mr. Herbert ; it is auditor of Wales, value about 400*l.* a year. He is, if I do not extremely mistake, fit for it, and worthy of it ; he is knight of the shire for Carmarthenshire : it would please me on several accounts, if I obtain it. Now every thing is so soon chopped upon and gone, that a slow way would defeat me, if nothing else does ; and that I fear from Lord Devonshire if he was in town : besides, I should not so distinctly know the queen's answer, and my success, as I shall, I know, do by your means, if you have no scruple to deliver my letter ; if you have, pray use me as I do you, and in the integrity of your heart tell me so. I could send it to Lady Derby ; it is only the certainty of some answer makes me pitch as I do. Nay, perhaps

it were more proper to send it to the queen's secretary; but I am not versed in the court ways, it is so lately since I have loved them. Therefore be free, and do as you think most fit.

I intend not to detain you long; but the many public and signal mercies we have of late received are so reviving, notwithstanding the black and dismal scenes which are constantly before me, and particularly on these sad months, I must feel the compassions of a wise and good God to these late sinking nations, and to the Protestant interest all the world over, and all good people also. I raise my spirit all I can, and labour to rejoice in the prospect of more happy days for the time to come, than some ages have been blessed with. The goodness of those instruments God has called forth, to work this great work by, swells one's hopes.

24 July, 1691.

CXXII.

TO QUEEN MARY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,
I HUMBLY beg leave to address myself to your majesty, and to say this truth, that is a very sensible trouble to me, when I do importune your majesty; yet I do sometimes submit, because I would not be quite useless to such as hope for some benefit by my means, and I desire to do what good I can.

I know your majesty feels that life is a labour to the highest; but, madam, you are blessed with a portion of goodness big enough to be content with it, in order to serve those ends of Providence which are

certainly wise and good, though dark to the inhabitants of the earth.

I do, in all humility, ask pardon for my request on the behalf of Mr. Richard Vaughan*, that he may succeed Colonel Herbert (lately killed in Ireland) as auditor of Wales. He is a lawyer, a Welshman, and so well esteemed of in his country, that he serves as knight of the shire for Carmarthenshire. I believe him every way fit for the office, or I should not do so much for him, since I think it a great matter to disquiet your majesty in this kind; and could with more joy pay a considerable duty to your majesty, than receive a profit for myself or friend; but my meanness and my misfortunes are a bar to all such hopes.

I pray God still to direct and prosper your majesty, preserve the person of the king, and bless with success all his designs, and so complete his blessing and compassions to all good people all the world over. The late public mercies fill with hopes your majesty's

Most humble, most dutiful,

And most faithful servant.

24 July, 1691.

CXXIII.

QUEEN MARY TO LADY RUSSELL.

I AM sorry my Lady Russell knows me so little, or judges so wrong of the kindness I have for her, to think she needs make an excuse for writing to me. I shall never think it a trouble to hear from you, and

* Related to Lady Russell's first husband.

should be very glad to do what you desire; but as I was wholly unacquainted with the place, and believe there is no great haste in the filling it, so I left all who spoke to me at liberty to write for themselves; so that it is likely the king may have disposed of it before I could let him know your desire. If it comes time enough, I am persuaded he will be as willing to please you in it as I am myself.

You are very much in the right to believe I have cause enough to think this life not so fine a thing as it may be others do, that I lead at present (besides the pain I am almost continually in for the king); it is so contrary to my own inclination, that it can be neither easy nor pleasant; but I see one is not ever to live for one's self. I have had many years of ease and content, and was not so sensible of my own happiness as I ought, till I lost it; but I must be content with what it pleases God; and this year have reason to praise him hitherto for the successes in Ireland, the news of which came so quick upon one another, that made me fear we had some ill to expect from other places; but I trust in God that will not be, though it looks as if we must hope for little good either from Flanders or sea. The king continues, God be praised, very well; and though I tremble at the thoughts of it, yet I cannot but wish a battle well over; and for that at sea, I wish it as heartily as Mr. Russell himself.

I have heard nothing all this while of your petition, which I am sorry for, wishing for any occasion to show how really I am, and always shall be

Your very affectionate friend.

Whitehall, July 30, 1691.

CXXIV.

TO (*supposed*) LADY ALINGTON.

I MIGHT have told you before you left us, my dear sister, that I took the opportunity I had of being alone with your father at the Lodge on Thursday, when you went to the leads, to speak to him in that concern you committed to me; but being my success is not exactly suitable to your desires, I would not venture to abate of your good humour amongst so many of your friends that take so great a pleasure in it; and to tell you true, I had rather write than speak, when what I have to say is not grateful, neither to me who am to speak, nor to them I am to speak it to. But thus it is: when I had spoke, my lord immediately replied, "Daughter, this is not new to me; I have been spoke to in it; and I can give no other answer than I have done already; which is, that I have lately disbursed great sums, and my estate stands charged with a considerable debt, which must be raised when I die; but this I have done, and she knows it: but you may tell it her again, that I have left both her daughters very considerable legacies, though I do not care to name what."

This is what his lordship said to me as punctually as I can set it down. He did not tell who had moved him in it. How you will like my report I know not, but I hope you think of me as I know myself to be: if it happen otherwise, it is but a little more weight to that heavy burden I have felt the weight of now full eight years; and as I have been wonderfully supported, so I have an humble confidence I shall be,

the few remaining days I have left to live. Blessed be the mercies of God, who gives us joy, hope, and comfort in believing; and whatever the methods of Providence are or may be, the final issue will be delight for evermore. Were that blessed state only a rest from the labour and toils of life, how welcome must it be! but as the Psalmist says, "At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore;" and in order to attain to this blessedness, which our Saviour, with the price of his blood, purchased for us, we should stand in awe, and often remember that place of Scripture, where God says of himself, "I am with you while you are with me." Let us strive faithfully to walk in his ways, and then our pensive and most solemn thoughts will be our best, and soon calm all tumultuous ones, that the troubles and crosses of this world naturally lead us to. I heartily pray both you and I may experience the sweetness of such meditation; then we shall wait with a becoming patience the great day of consolation.

16 August, 1691.

CXXV.

TO (*supposed*) LADY ALINGTON*.

My dear sister, I have not yet had resolution to speak to you this way, nor know I now what to say. Your misfortune is too big to hope that any thing I offer can allay the present rage of your sorrow. I pray for you, and I pity you, which is all I can do; and that I do most feelingly, not knowing how soon your

* On the death of one of her daughters.

case may be mine; and I want from you, what I would most willingly furnish you with—some consolation and truce from your extreme lamentation.

I hope that by this time your reason begins to get a power over your wasted spirits, and that you will let nature relieve herself. She will do it, if you do not obstruct her. There is a time and period for all things here. Nature will first prevail, but as soon as we can we must think what is our duty, and pursue it as well as we are able. I beseech God to teach you to submit to this unlooked for, and, in appearance, sadly severe providence, and endow you with a quiet spirit, to wait for the day of consolation, when joy will be our portion to all eternity: in that day we shall meet again all our pious friends; all that have died in their innocence; and with them live a life of innocence, and purity, and gladness for ever. Fit your thoughts with these undoubted truths, my dear sister, as much and as often as is possible. I know no other cure for such diseases; nor shall we miss one, if we endeavour, with God's grace assisting, which he certainly gives to such as ask. God give you refreshments. I am

Yours, &c.

10 Oct. 1691.

CXXVI.

TO * * * *.

THE misfortunes of such as one extremely esteems grow our own; so that if my constant sad heart were not so soon touched as it is with deplorable accidents, I should yet feel a great deal of your just mourning;

if sharing a calamity could ease you, that burden would be little; for, as depraved an age as we live in, there is such a force in virtue and goodness, that all the world laments with you; and yet, sure, madam, when we part from what we love most that is excellent, it is our best support that nature, who will be heard first, does suffer reason to take place.

What can relieve so much as that our friend died after a well spent life? Some losses are so surprising, and so great, one must not break in too soon, and therefore my sense of your calamity confined me to only a solicitous inquiry; and I doubt it is still a mistaken respect to dwell too long upon such a subject. I will do no more than sign this truth, that I am

Yours, &c.

18 Oct. 1691.

CXXVII.

TO MR. OWEN.

SIR,

How welcome the question I have to ask you will be, I know not, but I am much mistaken if the answer be not to my satisfaction.

I have had advice, and that but very lately, that my Lord Cavendish's friends intend to set him up for Westminster. He is come over, and now with me. I know you were invited by your friends to stand, and therefore suppose you have had an intent to do so. How far you are engaged I know not, nor how strong you find your interest. I do very well remember you asked me to speak to my Lord Bedford for his; I did it, and his answer was, he wished you

a parliament man with all his heart, because he thought you would vote well for your country ; but having appeared for Phil. Howard, he did not care to be forward in opposing him if he stood. Now I have heard nothing of your concerns since this, and my Lord Bedford was so favourable in the matter, that he meant to move no way in it, till now he understands that Lord Cavendish looks after it. You may believe he cordially assists him : Lord Clare does so too, who else assisted Mr. Bridgman ; but he now wants none, having submitted to a signification given him not to pretend to stand if Lord Cavendish did, it being of great concernment that he should not be baffled. Sir Stephen Fox thinks no more of it neither, for as soon as Lord Cavendish was named, he gave it up *. Now, Mr. Owen, if you can think fit to give an example, and declare you wish Lord Cavendish well in this thing, and as much as you can, give your interest to him, I find it is believed all others who have pretensions will do so too, except Bonithon, who I hear intends to stand it out to the last, upon a pure Tory interest ; therefore I would fain have it come to a fair trial of skill between the two parties, which it cannot so well do if Lord Cavendish be not singly at the head of one of them, and that I reckon he will be if you desist. And indeed it would be too great a gratification to the Tories to recover at Westminster what they have so lately lost in the city, I mean their credit in elections.

* In the parliament 1689-90, Sir Stephen Fox was member for Westminster, and in 1695 ; in the latter Lord Cavendish was member for Derby ; which makes this letter somewhat mysterious.

Now, Mr. Owen, I should be glad of your opinion honestly in this matter; you must think that I am greatly concerned in it, and perhaps depended on in relation to you who are more my acquaintance than you are to any of Lord Devonshire's family. I would by no means in the world have my Lord Cavendish contest in this matter and lose it, now at his first entrance into the world; but the good will of so many persons of quality, and so approved of by his majesty is not to be neglected neither; and I believe the good his father did in the house of commons, when he was Lord Cavendish, will be of advantage to this: and it will not hurt his interest that he is married to my Lord Russell's daughter.

All these things you can weigh much juster than I can lay them before you; and you know your strength, and what may weaken it, if you please to consider it; and when you have done so, if you resolve to oppose us, tell me ingenuously as much, and if you please, your reasons against my lord's standing, and for your own: it will oblige,

Sir,

Yours, &c.

23 Oct. 1691.

CXXVIII.

TO QUEEN MARY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

THE king's safe return into England is so great a subject for rejoicing, with all the other mercies of this year, as it gives me courage to take upon me to congratulate to your majesty so blessed and so desired a providence, most especially to yourself, and then to

all your people, that the intolerable temper of envy and faction does not influence; blessed be God that their fault becomes their punishment.

My mind being as it ought to be, as full of the present public joy as I am capable of, I am unwilling to put any thing in this paper that is of little moment, or looks like a particular interest. But, because I am very tender of multiplying these kind of troubles to your majesty, and am also encouraged from your being pleased to take notice I had not presented my petition that I had humbly asked leave to do, I have at last put it into my Lady Derby's hands to present to your majesty if you give leave. I could not before now get it done fit (as I thought) to show to your majesty; and now I have, considering the king's coming was so near you would not order any dispatch to a business like this, I have addressed my petition to his majesty; and if I may obtain so much grace as your majesty to recommend it to the king, I cannot doubt my success, though my request was much bigger than it is.

But if this is too much to ask, I humbly hope my fault may not be too great for your majesty's forgiveness to your majesty's

Most dutiful and most obedient subject.

Woburn Abbey, 23 Oct. 1691.

CXXIX.

TO LADY DERBY.

As my Lady Derby is never wanting, so I hope she is never weary of doing good and charitable offices. This that I am now asking from her is of the last

degree to me, it being that my poor child may have the honour and advantage of your protection, and kind prudent advice, now at her first entrance into the world. She has (I think) wit enough to take well either caution or reproof from your ladyship, and she is unexperienced enough to want it, and never been till now from too fond a mother, I doubt. My Lord Devonshire has called her out of my sight a little sooner than I thought we should have parted, my Lady Devonshire not being in town; but my lord gives me so good a reason for it (as the queen's being best pleased it should be so), that if I had authority to do it, I would not keep her, since I would have all that is mine to pay, as I will ever do, a free obedience to all her majesty's orders. I believe she will quite lose her credit for a dancer, for I find she cannot walk one dance out, it is so long since she learned, and she will have so little time to practise; but I encourage her to be content to do ill, rather than do nothing when the queen bids her do something. She will still grow better, I hope, every way a great while. I beg a thousand pardons of my Lady Derby for so long a trouble now, and so lasting a one as I have taken the liberty to ask of her; but a mother's concern will, I trust, excuse all the importunities of one that is, with true and great respect,

Your ladyship's.

Oct. 28, 1691.

CXXX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I WAS extremely well pleased, good doctor, to see a letter from you: not that I ever was so injurious to you, as to believe I had less of your respect when I had none of your letters; and I expect the same justice on your part towards me, and I believe I have it; however, it is well to express it sometimes. The last I writ to you lies now in my dressing-room, over the chimney, with one enclosed in it for Lady Gainsborough, and one other to Lady Julian; for I did not know how to direct to you, you being gone from Windsor. I heard last night from my Lady Gainsborough, and was glad she could tell me her daughter Napier was better since her being quick. I pray God give her mother her life with comfort. I hear she has a lusty grandchild by her son. I would fain scribble longer to you, but it is a visiting day, and my boy is so earnest at my elbow that I would be going, I cannot deny him, but will myself, in hastily signing,
Your faithful friend and servant.

December 29, 1691.

CXXXI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I AM so fully persuaded that Dr. Fitzwilliam knows my thoughts towards him, that I have never doubted he could misinterpret my receiving so well as I did, his kind inquiry after us, that morning I left Stratton;

but when I read your note, verily meaning to write a few lines to thank you, I gave no answer for the man, and so I guess he went without any; for I was by one business or another so hurried the rest of the time I stayed, that I never remembered what was incumbent on me; and not being put in mind, left it undone, to my vexation when I did remember it.

The solemnity of the time, when I was come here, made me delay till the next week writing to you, and then not taking the first post of that next, my thoughts grew too intent upon the sea affairs, to write letters: but God's holy name be ever praised for the happy close of that great business, which is marvellous in our eyes. May our praises and thanksgivings in some measure correspond to the good we have received, and that our biggest acknowledgments may not be expressed in ringing of bells and making of bonfires: but in recounting his many, and wonderful, and glorious mercies, and in carefully walking more obediently to his laws, which is all we can return to our benefactor.

Notwithstanding our differences in some things, I am sure Doctor Fitzwilliam joins his thanksgivings with me in this victory over that proud persecutor of the Protestant religion. The express this morning tells us, that the twelve ships Admiral Russell had pursued to the French shore were all burnt; the six biggest on Monday night, and the six less on Tuesday morning, with all their guns and ammunition; six were three deck ships, and the other six; the least was of sixty guns. The fleet is now divided into three parts: the admiral with one to Brest, to try if he can do any thing there; one of the less is to go to

eastward to look after six French ships said to be gone that way; and the other to cross between England and Dunkirk. I believe your newspapers at Chiltern tell you all, but being there is nothing newer, I would do it too; and as one can say nothing but what would be dull after what I have said, I will conclude this from

Your friend and servant.

May 26, 1692.

If Mrs. Napier is brought to bed, I would be glad to know it. And, good doctor, present my service to Lady Worsley and Sir Robert.

CXXXII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I WILL say but little for myself, why you were so long without hearing from me, yet I could say much to my justification; but am more willing to come to the more touching and serious part of your last letter; not but I should be very sorry, indeed, if I suspected you had a thought I were unworthy towards you; I dare say you raise none upon appearances, and other reason you shall never have. In short, my daughter Cavendish being ill, carried me twice a day to Arlington House, where I stayed till twelve and one o'clock at night, and much business, being near leaving London, and my eyes serving me no longer by candlelight, which perhaps was the biggest let of all, and hindered my doing what I desired and ought to do.

But to come to the purpose of yours, which I received the 13th of this lamentable month, the very

day of that hard sentence pronounced against my dear friend and husband; it was the fast day, and so I had the opportunity of retiring without any taking notice of it, which pleases me best. What shall I say, doctor? That I do live by your rules? No, I should lie. I bless God, it has long been my purpose, with some endeavour, through mercy, to do it. I hope I may conclude I grieve without sinning; yet I cannot attain to that love of God, and submission to all his providences, that I can rejoice in: however, I bless him for his infinite mercy, in a support that is not wrought from the world (though my heart is too much bound up in the blessings I have yet left) and I hope chiefly he has enabled me to rejoice in him as my everlasting portion, and in the assured hope of good things in the other world.

Good doctor, we are travelling the same way, and hope, through mercy, to meet at the same happy end of all our labours here, in an eternal rest; and it is of great advantage to that attainment, communicating pious thoughts to each other: nothing on this side heaven goes so near to it: and being where God is, it is heaven. If he be in our hearts, there will be peace and satisfaction, when one recollects the happiness of such a state (which, if my heart deceives me not, I hope is mine), and I will try to experience more and more that blessed promise—"Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden, and I will give you ease." This day and this subject inclines me to be very long, and might to another be too tedious: but I know it is not so to Dr. Fitzwilliam, who uses to feast in the house of mourning. However, my time to open my chamber door is near; and I take some care not

to affect in these retirements. In all circumstances I remain,

Sir,

Your constantly obliged friend and servant.

July 21, 1692.

CXXXIII.

TO LADY * * * RUSSELL.

IF ever I could retaliate with my sister Russell, it would be now, on the subject of death, when I have all this my saddest month been reflecting on what I saw and felt; and yet what can I say more than to acquiesce with you, that it is a solemn thing to think of the consequences of death to believers and unbelievers! That it is a contemplation ought to be of force to make us diligent for the approaching change, I must own; yet I doubt it does so but on a few. That you are one of those happy ones, I conclude, if I knew no more reason for it than the bare conclusion of yours, that the bare meditation is sufficient to provoke to care; for when a heart is so well touched, it will act; and who has perhaps by an absolute surrender of herself, so knit her soul to God, as will make her dear in his sight. We lie under innumerable obligations to be his entirely; and nothing should be so attracting to us, as his miraculous love in sending his Son: but my still smart sorrow for earthly losses makes me know I loved inordinately; and my profit in the school of adversity has been small, or I should have long since turned my mourning into rejoicing thankfulness, that I had such a friend to lose; that I saw him loved as my own soul take such a prospect of death, as made

him, when brought to it, walk through the dark and shaded valley (notwithstanding the natural aversion of separation) without fearing evil: for if we, in our limited degrees of goodness, will not forsake those that depend on us, much less can God cast us from him, when we seek to him in our calamity; and though he denied my earnest and repeated prayers, yet he has not denied me the support of his Holy Spirit, in this my long day of calamity, but enabled me in some measure to rejoice in him as my portion for ever; who has provided a remedy for all our griefs, by his sure promises of another life, where there is no death, nor any pain or trouble, but a fulness of joy in the presence of God, who made us, and loves us for ever.

CXXXIV.

TO LADY SUNDERLAND.

YOUR kind letter, madam, asks me to do much better for myself and mine, than to scribble so insignificantly as I do in a piece of paper; but for twenty several reasons yours must have the advantage you offer me with obliging earnestness a thousand times greater than I deserve, or there can be cause for, but that you have taken a resolution to be all goodness and favour to me. And indeed what greater mark can you almost give than remembering me so often, and letting me receive the exceeding advantage of your doing so, by reading your letters, which are all so edifying? When I know you are continually engaged in so great and necessary employments as you are, and have but too imperfect health, which to any other in the world but

Lady Sunderland would unfit for at least so great dispatches as you are charged with. These are most visible tokens of providence, that every one that aims to do their duty shall be enabled to do it.

I hope your natural strength is so great, that it will, in some time, if you do your part, master what has been accidentally in the disorder of it. Health, if one strictly considers, is the first of earthly blessings; for even the conversation of friends, which as to spiritual profits, as you excellently observe, is the nearest approach we can make to heaven while we live in these tabernacles of clay; so it is, in a temporal sense also, the most pleasant and the most profitable improvement we can make of the time we are to spend on earth. But as I was saying, if our bodies are out of tune, how ill do we enjoy what in itself is so precious! and how often must we choose, if we can attain it, a short slumber, that may take off our sense of pain, than to accept what we know in worth excels almost to infiniteness! No soul can speak more feelingly than my poor self on this subject; who can truly say, my friendships have made all the joys and troubles of my life; and yet who would live and not love? Those who have tried the insipidness of it would, I believe, never choose it. Mr. Waller says—"It is (with singing) all we know they do above:" and it is enough; for if there is so charming a delight in the love, and suitableness in humours, to creatures, what must it be to our clarified spirits to love in the presence of God! Can there be a greater contemplation to provoke to diligence for our preparation to that great change, where we shall be perfected, and so continue for ever? I see I have scribbled a great deal of paper; I dare

not read it, lest I should be sorry Lady Sunderland should : and yet can now send her nothing if not this ; for my eyes grow ill so fast, I resolve to do nothing of this sort by candlelight.

CXXXV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE not used to be so long without holding a correspondence with my good friend Doctor Fitzwilliam ; but I can do no more as I have done, therefore do works of necessity in the first place ; and when I think I have not done too much, I proceed to those of pleasure. If I had found leisure to be so employed, you had been told sooner that I have received yours of the 23d of August. I thank you, sir, for all in it ; and would gladly say something to every thing in particular, but I must restrain my desires, being resolved to be strict in observing the directions I am under for my bad eyes, which I am not sensible I hurt by what I can do, which is writing ; as for reading, I am past that contentment, especially print ; your hand is plain, and so well known to me, I can yet make shift to see it ; and while I can, desire to do so, if you please.

I have had a strong inclination to have discoursed a business of weight with you, no less than the marriage of my daughter : if Lady Gainsborough thought of it, you had a hint of it earlier than almost any body from me. I do own when it was first proposed, I was as it were surprised ; but when I came seriously to consider, and discourse with her friends, and also with such others as I could then get to talk with, and

found reason to conclude that a reverse of parliament was all the scruple I need to have, I was content to hear more of it, and not refuse the best match in England for an imaginary religious scruple. For as, on the one hand, I am joyful to see my daughters bestowed to the best fortunes in England, so, on the other, if he had a kingdom with his, I would not agree to put her knowingly in circumstances that I should doubt God's blessing would not go with. But if a divorce is just, as agreeing with the word of God, I take a marriage after it certainly to be so*; and for the estate, we enjoy them by man's law, and that man can alter, and so may alter again; which is a risk I am willing to run, if there should be enough left.

The young people have just seen one another. He is a pretty youth, and, as I am told, virtuously bred, and is free from all ill; his tutor was with him: he is a non-swearer, a divine, a man of parts, they say, and a good liver. You see, though I may not think the better of him, I do not think the worse. This is the business sticks closest to my thoughts, and so I am apt

* In 1670, John Lord Roos, or Ross (afterwards Earl and Duke of Rutland), who had married Lady Anne Pierrepont, daughter to Henry, Marquis of Dorchester, by whom he had two sons, having brought proofs of adultery against her, and obtained a sentence of divorce in the spiritual court, as it amounted only to a separation from bed and board, he moved for a bill to dissolve the bond; and an act of parliament was passed disabling her issue to inherit any of his lands or honours, and enabling him to marry again. He then married Diana, daughter of the Earl of Ailesbury, by whom he had no issue. His third wife was Catharine, daughter to Baptist Noel, Viscount Camden, by whom he had two sons and two daughters: the eldest son, John Lord Roos, married Catharine, daughter of Lord William and Lady Rachael Russell, who had four sons and four daughters.

to enlarge to such friends as you. For the chat of the town, as the successor to my poor sister*, &c. I will not venture to hurt my eyes for it; so will close this from

Your faithful friend and servant.

19 September, 1692.

CXXXVI.

QUEEN MARY TO LADY RUSSELL.

I CONFESS myself lazy enough in writing, yet that has not hindered my answering Lady Russell's letter, but staying for Mr. Russell's own answer, to which you referred me.

I have seen him this day, and find he is resolved to be Mr. Russell still: I could not press him farther in a thing he seemed so little to care for; so there is an end of that matter. Whether the king will think I have done it enough or no I cannot tell, but it is not in my nature to compliment, which makes me always take people at their words. I was glad to hear Lord Bedford is so well, and that your eyes are no worse.

You are so taken up, I hear, with your daughter's marriage, that I will not make my letter any longer; besides, it is easier to say many things than to write them, and at present I have not much time: I hope soon to have more by the king's coming, who I expect in a few days, if it please God to give good weather for his journey.

* Lord Montague's second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle, widow of Christopher Monk, Duke of Albemarle.

I shall say no more now; but assure you nobody can more sincerely wish you all imaginable satisfaction in what you are about, and all things else, than I do, who am really, and will show myself, on all occasions,

Your very affectionate friend.

Whitehall, 18 Oct. 1692.

CXXXVII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

WHILE I can see at all, I must do a little more than I can when God sees it best that outward darkness shall fall upon me, which will deprive me of all society at a distance, which I esteem exceeding profitable and pleasant; but still I have full hope I shall rejoice in that He will not deny me his great grace to strengthen me with might, by his Spirit in the inner man. Then I shall walk in the right way, till I reach the joys of eternal endurance.

I must ever thank my friends for their good thoughts of me: if I know my own heart, you are just to me in those that concern that affair; my poor child must have a part, if it take effect. My daily prayers are to be directed by his Holy Spirit, and that it may proceed or fall, as he in mercy sees it best. I cannot write long enough together to say much to the argument you do gently hint your mind concerning it. He has been here a week, and there appears no disposition in him that is blamable, though his age is not enough to compose him skilful in disguise, and so with art to conceal his inclinations; neither are his tender years proof against impressions, and imbibing

bad as well as good. The gentleman you mentioned was with him, and, I believe, has done well his duty. His want of complaisance gives me no prejudice, or so little, that if he were my son, I would put him into his hands from me, for some time to the university, where I think our nobility should pass some of their time: it has been for many years neglected; I must use that term, because I think it a proper one.

We are, God prospering our intentions, as near our remove to London as the middle of this month is to us, where I should hope to meet Lady Gainsborough, but that your last hints nothing of it. Pray present my most humble service unto her, and continue just to me, in believing me to be

Your faithful

And affectionate friend to serve you.

5 November, 1692.

CXXXVIII.

LADY RUTLAND* TO LADY RUSSELL.

THE world may blame me for receiving the honour of a word from dear Lady Russell, without returning my acknowledgments for it immediately; but I am too well acquainted with your ladyship's goodness to believe you will impute any little delay of my thanks to any disrespect, knowing I only spare you the trouble of reading too often dull empty letters; and that I have those obligations to your ladyship, that it is impossible while I have any sense, either to spare my pains or self, when it could be to pay you any real service.

* Lord Camden's daughter.

I hope your ladyship will do me the justice to believe that the account you last gave of Mr. Euers being now on the dispatching part, and the hopes you give me to wait upon you some time in June at Woburn, gave me great satisfaction; and that you will add to that the esteem which is due to yourself, and dear Mrs. Russell, from me; and then you cannot but be assured that nothing can give me more content than seeing your daughter mine also; for both before and after that desired happiness, there can be no command you can lay upon me, which will not be obeyed with pleasure, and taken as the greatest favour can be bestowed upon, madam,

Your ladyship's most obedient,

Faithful humble servant.

19 April, 1693.

CXXXIX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THE kindest marks you can give me, good doctor, of your having me in your thoughts, I received as you designed I should before, and yet very near the day that I must ever give a solemn regard to; but alas! my bad eyes serve me now so little, that I could not read your papers, and tell you that I had done so in one day. It is mortifying, yet I hope I do not repine; but, on the contrary, rejoice in the goodness of my God to me, that when I feared the utter loss of sight, has let me thus long see the light, and by it given me time to prepare for that day of bodily darkness which perhaps must soon overtake me. And what a grace is it that I should first settle my two daughters,

as I expect to do! though as near as we take this in hand to be, it may never take effect; nay, shall not (if God is pleased to grant my request), unless it be a thing pleasing in his sight, and which his blessing shall go along with.

I am apt to say unless they shall be happy in it, but I find a distinction to be made between being pleasing in God's sight, and their being happy, as we term it; that is, being full of worldly enjoyments, and taking excessive delight in their enjoyments. This God may withhold in mercy to their future good. So that I consider, if the act is acceptable to him, all shall work to their good (if they love and serve him), but whether by a prosperous, pleasant gale, or struggling with stormy weather, that I matter not so much, their eternal interest being my care; and this I beg your joining with me in hearty prayer for. I thank you, sir, for the meditation so choicely provided for me, who must remember my feeble sight, since it remembers me, who will be

Your constant

And obliged friend and servant.

Woburn Abbey, 25 July, 1693.

CXL.

SIR JAMES FORBES * TO LADY RUSSELL.

MADAM,

I COULD not miss this opportunity of giving your ladyship some account of Lord Ross and Lady Ross's

* The gentleman by whom Lord Cavendish sent his offers of assistance to Lord Russell, after his condemnation.

journey*, and their reception at Belvoir, which looked more like the progress of a king and queen through their country, than that of a bride and bridegroom going home to their father's house. At their first entry into Leicestershire, they were received by the high sheriff at the head of all the gentlemen of the country, who all paid their respects, and complimented the lady bride at Harborough. She was attended next day to this place by the same gentlemen, and by thousands of other people, who came from all places of the country to see her, and to wish them both joy, even with huzzas and acclamations.

As they drew near to Belvoir, our train increased, with some coaches, and with fresh troops of aldermen and corporations, besides a great many clergymen, who presented the bride and bridegroom (for so they are still called) with verses upon their happy marriage.

I cannot better represent their first arrival at Belvoir, than by the Woburn song that Lord Bedford liked so well; for at the gate were four-and-twenty fiddlers all in a row; four-and-twenty trumpeters, with their tan tara ra ra's; four-and-twenty ladies; and as many parsons; and in great order they went in procession to the great apartment, where the usual ceremony of saluting and wishing of joy was passed, but still not without something represented in the song, as very much tittle-tattle, and fiddle-fiddle: after this the time passed away till supper, in visiting all the apartments of the house, and in seeing the

* Lady Russell's second daughter, Catharine, was married to John Lord Ross (afterwards Duke of Rutland), on 17 August, 1693.

preparations for the sack posset, which was the most extraordinary thing I did ever see, and much greater than it was represented to be. After supper, which was exceeding magnificent, the whole company went in procession to the great hall; the bride and bridegroom first, and all the rest in order, two and two; there it was the scene opened, and the great cistern appeared, and the healths began; first in spoons; some time after in silver cups; and though the healths were many, and great variety of names given to them, it was observed, after one hour's hot service, the posset did not sink above one inch, which made my Lady Rutland call in all the family; and then upon their knees, the bride and bridegroom's health, with prosperity and happiness, was drunk in tankards brim full of sack posset. This lasted till past twelve o'clock, &c.

Madam,

Your most humble and faithful servant.

1693.

CXLI.

ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

Lambeth House, Aug. 26th, 1693.

MADAM,

THOUGH nobody rejoices more than myself in the happiness of your ladyship and your children, yet in the hurry in which you must needs have been, I could not think it fit for to give you the disturbance so much as of a letter, which otherwise had, both in friendship and good manners, been due upon this great occasion. But now that busy time is, in a good measure, over, I cannot forbear after so many as I am sure have been before me, to congratulate with

your ladyship this happy match of your daughter; for so I heartily pray it may prove, and have great reason to believe it will; because I cannot but look upon it as part of the comfort and reward of your patience and submission to the will of God, under that sorest and most heavy affliction that could have befallen you; and when God sends and intends a blessing, it shall have no sorrow or evil with it.

I entreat my Lord Ross and his lady to accept of my humble service, and my hearty wishes of great and lasting happiness.

My poor wife is at present very ill, which goes very near me; and having said this, I know we shall have your prayers. I entreat you to give my humble service to my Lord of Bedford, and my Lord Cavendish and his lady. I could, upon several accounts, be melancholy, but I will not upon so joyful an occasion. I pray God to preserve and bless your ladyship and all the good family at Woburn, and to make us all concerned to prepare ourselves with the greatest care for a better life.

I am, with all true respect and esteem,

Madam,

Your ladyship's most faithful

And most humble servant.

CXLII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

You will be so just to me, good doctor, as never to mistrust my silence; if I did not believe so, I should be in some pain now, having two letters from you by

me, that if I am not very unworthy will make me take a pleasure to say something in return of so much good will; and it is then an ill mark not to have writ in so long a time, being I know none but what are self-lovers enough to do what pleases them. Yet so has been my case; I would have been glad to have conversed with you, good doctor, but could not, as my present circumstances are. Heretofore, whatever engagements I had a-days, the nights were free to me; but my ill eyes can now not serve me at all, when once a candle is lighted; so that since Lord Rutland came hither, I have been mistress of no time; if I had, I should not have lived in a continual noise and hurry as I have done. I did excuse my going to Belvoir with all the company, but followed them before I had acquitted myself of all my formal congratulations; for if I do more than a very little at a time, I find my eyes ache; and that I am sure is naught, and a little sight is too precious a good to be neglected.

I thank you, sir, for all your thoughts on the subject which filled mine this last year, but I cannot attempt to say any thing in return; it would be too long a discourse for me this way. I hope I have done my duty well to my daughters, and that they shall enjoy a lasting happiness; but, above all, my prayer is, that the end of their faith may be the salvation of their souls; that they may be endowed with such graces here, as may fit them for the glories of the state hereafter.

If your retirement pleases you, indeed, and that you do not deceive yourself, I have nothing to say against it, if your health does not abate, which certainly will, if your mind does not agree perfectly with

what your will has chosen ; let that be a timely monitor to you. Man is a sociable creature, and you by disposition are made for it, and by the accidents of your life ever used to it, so that it is very new to you to be very solitary long together ; and while you have a competency, doctor, deny not yourself the innocent, nay the profitable comforts of life. I apprehend but one inconveniency, if you do a little less sequester yourself, and that I hope you are of a more temperate spirit than to draw on yourself ; but you are best judge. I exceed my bounds exceedingly, for I take little paper to night, no more than one side, not to turn over, for if I do, this is the issue. Farewell, good doctor, for this time.

I am constantly your friend to serve you.

18th Sept. 1693.

CXLIII.

ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

Lambeth House, 13th Oct. 1693.

I HAVE forborne, madam, hitherto, even to acknowledge the receipt of your ladyship's letter, and your kind concernment for mine and my wife's health, because I saw how unmerciful you were to your eyes in your last letter to me ; so that I should certainly have repented the provocation I gave you to it by mine, had not so great and good an occasion made it necessary.

I had intended this morning to have sent Mr. Vernon to Woburn, to have inquired of your ladyship's health, having but newly heard, that since your return from Belvoir, a dangerous fever had seized upon you.

But yesterday morning, at council, I happily met with Mr. Russell, who to my great joy, told me, that he hoped that danger was over; for which I thank God with all my heart, because I did not know how fatal the event might be, after the care and hurry you have been in, and in so sickly a season.

The king's return is now only hindered by contrary winds. I pray God to send him safe to us, and to direct him what to do when he is come. I was never so much at my wit's end concerning the public. God only can bring us out of the labyrinth we are in, and I trust he will.

My wife gives her most humble service and thanks to you for your concernment for her, and does rejoice equally with me for the good news of your recovery.

Never since I knew the world had I so much reason to value my friends. In the condition I now am I can have no new ones; or, if I could, I can have no assurance that they are so. I could not at a distance believe that the upper end of the world was so hollow as I find it. I except a very few, of whom I believe no ill till I plainly see it.

I have ever earnestly coveted your letters; but now I do as earnestly beg of you to spare them for my sake, as well as your own. With my very humble service to my good Lord of Bedford, and to all yours, and my hearty prayers to God for you all, I remain,

Madam,

Your ladyship's most obliged

And obedient servant*.

* The archbishop's correspondence with Lady Russell had been interrupted on her part for many months, by the disorder in her eyes increasing to such a degree, that she was obliged,

CXLIV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

GOOD DOCTOR,

THOUGH I will not say I am to blame in not writing, yet I pronounce myself so, by not taking care you might know I had your letter, and the book, which was writ with so much care, that I found no pain at all in reading it. I cannot say the like to the doubtfulness of thoughts I perceive you, sir, engaged in. I am not furnished with abilities (my brains and eyes would both fail me in the task), if I should attempt to effect what I wish. So I leave you to yourself, being satisfied you are not so grievously wanting to yourself, as not to have sought all arguments to convince your judgment that you might honestly submit to the present government, which by the wonderful providence of God is established in these nations, for maintaining the Protestant religion in its purity, both at home and abroad, and which, without such a miraculous revolution, was not, in human reason, to be

on the 27th of June, 1694, to submit to the operation of couching. Upon this occasion his grace drew up a prayer two days after, in which he touched upon the death of her husband, "whom the holy and righteous Providence (says he) permitted [under a colour of law and justice] to be [unjustly] cut off from the land of the living." But over the words between the brackets, after the first writing, he drew a line, as intending to erase them, probably from a reflection that they might be too strong, or less suitable to a prayer. June 28, he wrote to the Bishop of Salisbury, "I cannot forbear to tell you, that my Lady Russell's eye was couched yesterday morning with very good success: God be praised for it."—*Birch*.

expected in all this part of the world. Sure this has been the work of his own hand ; and although he may have used instruments to bring this about, may not you judge it a blessing to them to be so made use of? And as all the methods of the Almighty are good, and what we have lately felt does not seem in displeasure, why you may not rejoice, and enjoy the blessed fruits of it, is a circumstance I am sorry for ; and so I have done. Only I will add thus much more, that I am far from being convinced, let your own scruples be what they can be, that this is a case to engage your contending in, as a mark of the true and heroic spirit of Christianity attaining towards perfection, as the ministers of the gospel should, especially, embrace. Stay, and endure for the example, comfort, and support of others. Remember, good doctor, the calling in popery must be the issue, which God, in his watchful providence, has, in appearance, put away from us ; and I hope all who have accepted of the way, you do not judge hardly of. I know you do not ; and therefore, though you cannot satisfy your mind, discourage not others. I am sure the Bishop of Bath and Wells excited others to comply, when he could not bring himself to do so, but rejoiced that others could. I will break off abruptly, because else I see I cannot. You cannot misconstrue any thing I have said ; I know you cannot think my meaning bad towards you.

If you resolve upon retiring to some neutral town, in what I can be of help to you, you may, sir, count upon it. I shall expect to hear when, and in what. A pass, I suppose, is no difficult thing to obtain. I have scribbled so much, I must not engage in telling

stories of my son. In short, if they do not deceive me whom I trust, all goes very well. I intend ever to remain, as I am at present,

Good Doctor Fitzwilliam's
Faithful friend and servant.

Oxford, 17th May, 1696.

CXLV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

MANY obstacles have been in my way to prevent my taking notice that I have received lately two letters from you, good doctor; observe, I say, giving you notice that I had them; for as to the answering them, I am not so conceited of myself to go about it. I will only say, that I am glad nothing of such a nature can be put upon me as should try my strength both of judgment and fortitude, which I mistrust would both prove very weak; whilst in the mean time I see men, whose sincerity and ability I have equal value for, point blank contrary one to the other; yet both will be, I doubt not, accepted at the great day of trial; and therefore I will take leave, sir, to wish you converted.

Because I know I cannot manage the argument, I will give it over, lest I hurt the cause I would give credit to. If I had a better talent, I would not give you over as I must do; nor, however (it is possible), if I had the sight I had once; but, as it is, I must be content, and am thankfully so.

My daughter's condition will now very soon call me back to Southampton House. I purpose it before

the middle of July. I thank God we are very healthful in this town.

I am, sincerely,

Your friend to serve you to my best power.

Oxford, 15th June, 1696.

[N.B. Soon after this Doctor Fitzwilliam died, having appointed all the letters which Lady Russell writ to him to be returned to her ladyship, that they might be printed; many of which do not appear.]

CXLVI.

BISHOP OF SALISBURY TO LADY RUSSELL.

I do heartily congratulate with your ladyship for this new blessing. God has now heard your prayers, with relation to two of your children, which is a good earnest that he will hear them in due time with relation to the third. You begin to see your children's children; God grant you may likewise see peace upon Israel. And now that God has so built up your house, I hope you will set yourself to build a house of prayer for the honour of his name.

You have passed through very different scenes of life. God has reserved the best to the last. I do make it a standing part of my poor prayers twice a day, that as now your family is the greatest in its three branches that has been in England in our age, so that it may in every one of these answer those blessings by an exemplary holiness, and that both

you and they may be public blessings to the age and nation.

I do not think of coming up yet this fortnight, if I am not called for*. I humbly thank your ladyship for giving me this early notice of so great a blessing to you. I hope it shall soon be completed by my Lady Ross's full recovery. Mrs. Burnet is very sensible of the honour your ladyship does her in thinking of her, and does particularly rejoice in God's goodness to you. I am, with the highest sense of gratitude and respect possible,

Madam,

Your ladyship's most humble, most obedient,

And most obliged servant.

Salisbury, 31st Oct. 1696.

* The Marquis of Halifax said of Bishop Burnet,—“He makes many enemies, by setting an ill natured example of living, which they are not inclined to follow. His indifference for preferment, his contempt not only of splendour, but of all unnecessary plenty, his degrading himself into the lowest and most painful duties of his calling, are such unprelatical qualities, that, let him be never so orthodox in other things, in these he must be a dissenter. Virtues of such a stamp are so many heresies in the opinion of those divines who have softened the primitive injunctions, so as to make them suit better with the present frailty of mankind. No wonder then, if they are angry, since it is in their own defence; or that from a principle of self-preservation they should endeavour to suppress a man whose parts are shame, and whose life is a scandal to them.”—Both he and Tillotson, as well as many other Christian bishops, were averse to pluralities and non-residence.

CXLVII.

TO SIR ROBERT WORSLEY.

SIR ROBERT,

IF my letters were of service to you, I should not reserve them only for such times as I serve ends of my own by it; as I now design to do, being the errand of this paper is to obtain your opinion, if you please to give it, upon a few questions I will put to you. By the death of Mr. Morin, sir, you know there wants a presentation of Kingsworthy, and a vicar at Michel-devever. I find both places well disposed to receive Mr. Swayne. I hope he is worthy of the gift, and believe you think him so. If you should know any thing why he is not, though as a friend you might wish he were the incumbent, yet I am persuaded that in a just regard to the weight of the matter, and to me who ask it from you, if you know any visible reason that he is not a proper person for such a preferment, that you will caution me in it; for I profess to you, sir, I think the care of so many souls is a weighty charge; and I have been willing to take time to consider whose hands I put these into. I can, with all my scruples, make no exception to Mr. Swayne, if his vapours are not too prevalent to permit his being free and active in such a charge. But I hope it is not so; and if you concur with me, I will bestow them upon him; for I do not see how I can part them. And now, sir, I come with my second question to you when I have told you the provision I would make for curates. I have met with a paper signed by Mr. Morin,

to my father, in which he engages to allow the curate at Kingsworthy fifty pounds a year ; and that at Stratton, who served Popham also, thirty pounds a year ; Northington is not mentioned in it. Now, sir, I would, in short, have the same stipends, as this paper signifies were formerly agreed on, to be honestly made good by the next incumbent, and during my pleasure. There will be ten pounds a year more coming in to him than has been formerly, and as much to the curate who serves Stratton ; for a few years ago my dear lord added twenty pounds a year, during his will to do so, to be so divided, and without a very justifiable reason I shall not withhold it ; and forty shillings a year more to the vicar, upon an agreement for some orchards taken into the park.

From this long digression I return to my question, which arises from this purpose of mine that I must offer to you. I know it is a thing required by many to take a bond for resigning at the patron's pleasure. I have no disposition at all to do so ; but to this I have, that I would have a bond to perform these conditions to the curates, unless I dispense with him ; and also, that in case of non-residence, he shall resign to me*. For the case often happens, they get another living, and the situation it may be more pleasant ; then put in a curate for a small stipend, and I have no remedy. That this is practicable I believe, though I am ignorant enough, and am not in a place where I

* Residence would, at the council of Trent, have been declared to be *jure divino*, which the pope himself could not dispense with, but that it was overruled by the intrigues of his creatures ; so that, however insisted on by some bishops, they prevented its being so decreed.

can be well informed. But I refer myself, Sir Robert, to you, and in what you see cause to oppose me, pray do it; you will oblige me by it; and, I think, I shall submit to reason. But if what I ask is (as I conceive it is) practicable, I should take it as a favour if you would discourse Mr. Swayne upon it, and then instruct Mr. Mewes to draw up an instrument to the purposes I have signified. When I hear from you I will be ready to——

CXLVIII.

TO KING WILLIAM.

SIR,

I RATHER choose to trouble your majesty with a letter, than be wanting in my duty, in the most submissive manner imaginable to acknowledge the honour and favour I am told your majesty designs for Lord Rutland and his family, in which I am so much interested.

It is an act of great goodness, sir, in you; and the generous manner you have been pleased to promise it in makes the honour, if possible, greater. As you will lay an eternal obligation on that family, be pleased to allow me to answer for all those I am related to; they will look on themselves equally honoured with Lord Rutland, by your favour to his family, and I am sure will express their acknowledgments to your majesty in the most dutiful manner, to the best of their services; in which I earnestly desire my son Bedford may exceed, as he has been first, and early honoured with the marks of your favour: and I hope I may live to see your majesty has bestowed one more upon him, who appears to me to have no other ambition, except

what he prefers above all others, making himself acceptable to your majesty, and living in your good opinion.

I presume to say, I believe there is no fault in his intentions of duty towards your majesty, nor, I trust, ever will be; and that as his years increase, his performances will better declare the faithfulness of his mind, which will hugely enlarge the comforts of

Your majesty's most humble, most dutiful,

And most obedient servant.

N.B. Lady Russell's endorsement on the foregoing letter is in these words:

To the king, 1701-2, about first of March, and found in his pocket when dead.

CXLIX.

TO (ROUVIGNY) EARL OF GALWAY*.

ALAS; my dear Lord Galway, my thoughts are yet all disorder, confusion, and amazement; and I think I am very incapable of saying or doing what I should.

* Lady Russell's only son, Wriothesley, Duke of Bedford, died of the small-pox, in May, 1711, in the 31st year of his age; upon which occasion this letter was written.—To this affliction succeeded, in Nov. 1711, the loss of her daughter, the Duchess of Rutland, who died in childbed. Lady Russell, after seeing her in the coffin, went to her other daughter, married to the Duke of Devonshire, from whom it was necessary to conceal her grief, she being at that time in childbed likewise; therefore she assumed a cheerful air, and with astonishing resolution, agreeable to truth, answered her anxious daughter's inquiries with these words—"I have seen your sister out of bed to-day."

I did not know the greatness of my love to his person, till I could see it no more. When nature, who will be mistress, has in some measure, with time, relieved herself, then, and not till then, I trust the Goodness, which hath no bounds, and whose power is irresistible, will assist me by his grace to rest contented with what his unerring providence has appointed and permitted. And I shall feel ease in this contemplation, that there was nothing uncomfortable in his death, but the losing him. His God was, I verily believe, ever in his thoughts. Towards his last hours he called upon him, and complained he could not pray his prayers. To what I answered, he said, he wished for more time to make up his accounts with God; then with remembrance to his sisters, and telling me how good and kind his wife had been to him, and that he should have been glad to have expressed himself to her, said something to me and my double kindness to his wife, and so died away. There seemed no reluctance to leave this world, patient and easy the whole time, and I believe knew his danger, but, loath to grieve those by him, delayed what he might have said. But why all this? The decree is past. I do not ask your prayers; I know you offer them with sincerity to our Almighty God for

Your afflicted kinswoman.

June, 1711.

CL.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

MY LORD,

I HAVE been for some weeks often resolved, and as soon unresolved, if I would or would not engage upon a subject I cannot speak to without some emotion, but I cannot suffer your being a stranger to any that very near concerns me: yet before I could dispose myself to do it, concluded the article not a secret to you, such care having by one side been taken, as to let it be a visiting day affair, whether or not the D. of R**** had not fixed a second choice? perhaps as proper to call it the first; for when marriages are so very early, it is accepting rather than choosing, on either side. But Lord R****, to the end of my good child's life, has so well approved of the choice, in all and every respect, and now that she is no more, has, with very deliberate consideration as soon as he composed his mind to think, first taken care to inquire, and be truly informed what powers he had to do for his children: and then, by the strictest rules of justice and impartial kindness, settled every younger child's portion, by adding to what they had before. As it is to me the most solid instance of his respect and love he can now give to her memory, and being I believe it done with an honest sincerity, and true value of her, and all her virtues, I conceive it would be wrong in me to take offence at some circumstances the censorious part of the town will be sure to do, and

refine upon, for the sake of talk. I miss the hearing, by seeing few, and not answering questions*.

The first notice I had of his intention was by Mr. Charlton, and I really believe that was as soon as he had given himself his own consent. He told me he found him under great unquietness, when he acquainted him with his thoughts, who said, he was under all the anxieties a man could feel how to break it to me, though it was then but a thought of his own, yet so much he would not conceal from me. Mr. Charlton undertook to tell me, and I did as soon resolve to let it pass as easy between him and me as I could, by bidding Mr. Charlton let him know I would begin to him. I did so, which put us both in some disorder, but I believe he took, as I meant it, kindly.

A decency in time was all I expected. The person is sister to the present Lord Sherard; the other sister had been a widow to a Lord Erwin, and some years ago married a brother of the Duchess of Rutland, a Mr Noel†, who has been a companion to his nephew ever since our sorrowful time. Here is a general opinion that the Lord St. John‡ is gone to Paris; some will suppose it is to try if the French king will come up to the terms the Dutch will accept.

5th August, 1712.

* John Lord Roos, (or Ross) afterwards Duke of Rutland (whose first wife, Lady Russell's daughter, died 31st October, 1711), on 1st January, 1712-13, married Lucinda, sister to Bennet Sherard, Earl of Harborough.

† John Noel, brother to the Duchess of Rutland, married Elizabeth, eldest sister to Bennet, Earl of Harborough, and widow of Edward Ingram, Viscount Irwin, in Scotland.

‡ Lord St. John, afterwards Viscount Bolingbroke, famous for his share in the peace of Utrecht, &c.

CLI.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

THE change of your secretary is much to the advantage of the reader; it would be so to you, I conclude, if I did not choose to be my own: but when I write as I do to you, the amusement is more agreeable to myself, and I assure myself you will make it so to you, if you can find what I mean to say; for I know I am exceeding apt to miss words I meant to put down. However, unless the business be of importance, I spare my eyes examining. As to the subject of my last, I will let it rest. As to the point of education, I am sorry we are not of one mind; but there is no help where there is no remedy. There is an overruling Providence, and I try to hope her children shall be blessed. It was their good mother's thoughts under her hand, and though it might be thought her children would want her, yet her hope was, her prayers in their behalf had been heard. There is nothing yet appears blamable in them. Their father's indulgence may hurt in their best part, but as to the worldly part, if he is honestly dealt with in the drawing up of writings, he puts it out of his power to prevent any attempt for it. Let that be as it will, these accidents in families have been, and will no doubt be while the world lasts; and if we are so happy as to secure our next, and lasting stake, it matters little how this passes; yet flesh and blood shrinks at pain, and want of ease in body or mind; and it is natural to do so. Who can do otherwise, but by an affected force? and in that is no virtue: but I leave this; you want no

admonitions. I want the practice though my years are many.

Now, my lord, I come to my neighbour Withers, as you call him. I know the persons of none of that name; if it be him at Alsford, he has been a commander, and may talk of taking and defending towns more knowingly than bargaining for lands; but I fancy it is another rather further from me, and the family more known to me a hundred years ago. As to the warren, I do not value foxes as the gentleman does, but I do the beauty of our warren; and for the value, you found he went but half way: but to cut that short, it is entailed, and I must leave it so. The warrener must be bribed, not me.

I am thankful to God I have made an end between Mr. Sp * * * and myself, &c. Now as I am to answer for Mr. Sp * * * who was an accountant to me, being employed by me so; there is this article between him and me, that if at any time there is a discovery of any money or debt due to him, I have the title to it, and not he, let it be much or little.

After many offers and endeavours by counsel and without, I came to this agreement:—He was to make a clear and full discovery of all he is worth, lands, leases, monies, goods, debts, &c. Then I, who was to have the whole in me, allow back to him what I think will be a subsistence to him, his wife, and children: and so I have done. Swearing is what I desire to excuse; for it is possible he might be tempted to proceed in doing ill, and I not the better; and if he had sworn truth, as others professed they would not believe him, though I am less free in the professing

of it, I might have doubted: then why provoke him to sin?

What has been urged to me over and over again, many times, has no force in it; which was, that they would undertake, and are sure he could conceal ten thousand pounds, which I should never discover, either in this nation or India. My answer is, if it cannot ever be found, it is to me as if it were not: and if I had any opinion of a conjurer (as we call them), I would not seek it that way. So what I approved best of I chose.

That if a discovery be made out, it is to my use. Now the farm he has from his father, which is 55*l.* a year, I could not come at, all counsel agreeing it to be out of the way: nay, I must have had application to chancery to have proceeded; there he could have hung it up. Sir Joseph Jekyl said this; that there it might hang for a dozen of years, nay, to the end of the youngest in the room, and Tom Selwood was one of the seven or eight; there were four counsel. Also, he said, he would not take five thousand pounds of me towards the charge I should be at. But all this avails not at all: nothing but prison, nay, dying on a dunghill has no ill sound. At last I gave no further trouble (after having endured so much myself), from the opinion of a great lawyer, though not now to be paid as counsel. After two hours discourse and laying all before him, he told me it was the most advisable thing to compound the matter; and he esteemed it a very good composition, where they pretended to seven or eight thousand pounds from me, to pay me between two or three. He was so vehe-

ment in his opinion of making an end, that as a friend, he prayed and exhorted me to set to it next morning; and if it were his case, he would not sleep till it was done, if that were possible: for if he should happen to die, I could not imagine how bad my circumstances might be, even to the returning two thousand pounds I had then received, and never be able to disprove his account; so be a debtor eight thousand pounds to his wife and children. This has given me many terrible waking hours from week to week, seeking to please and accommodate to my wishes; but they were not inclined to believe what they did not like; so took no impression, as I would think they did not believe it did in me: but I was no hypocrite; I felt more than I told. My mind is more at rest as to all my worldly concerns. Here I ask of Lord Galway *

Saturday, 16 August, 1712.

CLII.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

I HAVE before me, my good lord, two of your letters: both partially and tenderly kind, and coming from a sincere heart and honest mind (the last a plain word, but, if I mistake not, very significant), are very comfortable to me, who I hope have no proud thoughts of myself as to any sort. The opinion of an esteemed friend, that one is not very wrong, assists to strengthen a weak and willing mind to do her duty towards that Almighty Being, who has from infinite

* Conclusion in another paper not found.

bounty and goodness so chequered my days on this earth, as I can thankfully reflect I have felt many, I may say many years, of pure, and, I trust, innocent, pleasant content, and happy enjoyments as this world can afford, particularly that biggest blessing of loving and being loved by those I loved and respected: on earth no enjoyment certainly to be put in balance with it. All other are like wine, intoxicates for a time, but the end is bitterness, at least not profitable. Mr. Waller (whose picture you look upon) has, I long remember, these words—

All we know they do above,
Is, that they sing, and that they love.

The best news I have heard is, you have two good companions with you, which I trust will contribute to divert you this sharp season, when after so sore a fit, as I apprehend you have felt, the air, even of your improving pleasant garden, cannot be enjoyed without hazard.

The queen has appointed twelfth-day for a drawing-room, and several tables for play; but there was none till yesterday, and how that passed I know not.

I heard a lady say yesterday, that the ambassador had turned away four servants for selling wine by bottles, and that she had tasted his Burgundy, which was very good*.

* The conclusion and date lost.

CLIII.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

THERE is no post-day I do not find myself readily disposed to take my pen, and dispose of it as I now do; but there is not one of those days I do not also approve to myself how mean my ability is to entertain, as I desire, such a relation and friend as Lord Galway; yet I put my mind at ease soon enough as to that trouble, being so certain and sure as I am how you receive it.

I should do better than I can yet attain to do, if I could with a more composed mind reflect on the good and bad days of a long life, and be thankful for so kind a providence as the freedom I have had from bodily pains, which so many better than I suffer: at this age I have attained there are few more exempt.

Selwood tells me your appearance is very comfortable, and if I get to Hampshire, I trust I shall see it so. Sure this season is a trial; for although it is a customary thing to complain of seasons, yet in my opinion this is an extraordinary one: I have not wanted to observe (except while I enjoyed Lady Betty Norton's* company, who gave me much of her time) that from the first day of March to this, there hath not been twenty-four hours without much rain, snow, or hail. It keeps Lord Devon from Newmarket, which he expects would be of use if he could get thither. He is put into a coach, and is carried on

* Daughter of Lord Gainsborough (by Elizabeth, sister to Lady Russell), married to ——— Norton, Esq.

the stones, but cannot use his feet to go ; it is a melancholy sight to see a young man so seized, but his patience keeps an equality with his trials. A just measure of patience in all one suffers (I conclude yourself proves it very notoriously from a variety of instances), may it ever be a comfort in our best hours ! and then how ravishing the great day of the Lord ! the day of recompense ! for such we are allowed to call it ! Madame Gouverne's brother being dead, madame may dispose of his wealth as she thinks good in France, &c.

14 April, 1715.

CLIV.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

* but the merciful providence of God it is our duty to pray for and trust in, then it shall be well in the end, in this world, or a better. I beseech God to give the consolation of his Holy Spirit to enable you to struggle with bodily pains : your resignation I have no doubt of ; yet nature will shrink, when the weight is heavy, and presses hard ; which will not be imputed, because it is natural.

I also pray to God to fortify your spirit under every trial ; till eternity swallows all our troubles, all our sorrows, all our disappointments, and all our pains in this life. The longest, how short to eternity ! All these ought to be my own care to improve my weak self, as the fortitude of your mind, experience, and knowledge does to you ; and I pray for such a portion

* Beginning lost.

of them in mercy to me, as may secure an endless glorifying to so feeble, so ignorant, so mean a creature as myself, that I cannot be too little in my own sight.

If there be a regency, the intended journey to Chatsworth must be laid aside; as I must my pen for want of day.

I am certain of this being a truth, that I am faithfully and affectionately yours.

May 28, 1716.

CLV.

BISHOP OF LICHFIELD AND COVENTRY * TO LADY RUSSELL.

MADAM,

I SHOULD have done myself this honour long since could I have had the vanity to think I knew any thing which would not come to your ladyship by better hands; but, you madam, have account of the most important matters from persons who cannot be deceived; and, I am sure, you are above the relish of those common things which supply the news and conversation of the town.

I cannot, however leave this place (which I purpose to do on Monday next) without presenting my most humble respects to your ladyship, and my sincere prayers to Almighty God for health and happiness to yourself and all yours.

* John Hough, afterwards called the good Bishop of Worcester, greatly promoted the Revolution; died March 8, 1743, aged above 92.

I leave a place which is now pretty empty since the royal family went to Hampton Court, where the public manner in which the king lives makes it the rendezvous, not only of the ministers and great men, but of the people of all ranks and conditions. He dines openly and with company every day, and the novelty of the sight draws a mighty concourse. After so long a reserve, we may easily imagine how great a constraint he puts upon himself; but he certainly does a right thing, for by this means his face (which speaks nothing but what is great and good) will not only be familiar to his people, but he will enter into a degree of intimacy with the nobility above what could be arrived at in the cabinet or drawing-room. Would to God it might prove the happy occasion of bringing him and the prince to a better understanding: for upon that depends the establishment of our peace, and we have already felt how much the want of it has shaken us; but there does not seem to be any appearance that way: this still continues to be the dark side of our prospect, and were it not that God has already carried so many threatening clouds over our own heads, one would dread to think how heavy this may fall*. I am now going to a place where I resolve to make as few of these reflections as possible, for they are attended with anxiety of thought, and raise appre-

* Tindal, speaking of the difference between King George I. and the prince, says, it arose from the prince's resenting the duke of Newcastle's standing godfather in his own name to prince George William (who was born 2d Nov. 1717, died 6 Feb. 1717—18) and not as proxy for the Duke of York, bishop of Osnaburg, his uncle; on which the king was displeased. But by this letter it appears there was a disagreement before.

hensions of danger, which, by a hundred ways unforeseen by us, Providence may please to disappoint; but I mention them to your ladyship, because I know you to be one of those very few who can make a right use of them, by using them as occasion of fervent prayer for the public welfare, without suffering them to raise a passion, or disturb your mind.

Give me leave, madam, to wish you all the happiness your own soul can desire, and to profess myself, as I do, with great humility and truth,

Madam, your ladyship's most obedient,

And most faithful servant.

27 July, 1717.

I beg leave to present my most humble service to good Lord Galway. My wife's humble duty attends your ladyship; and we are both full of acknowledgment for the fine piece of venison you were pleased to send us,

CLVI.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

As the fine season continues (for such I esteem a hot one), I slacken in my scribbling; the pure air alone abundantly exceeds my tattle under the roof, though very well meant to you, whether sent in the French or English tongue. But although your lordship spoke as well as you possibly could do of my French, if you did it to encourage my use of it, you will be under a small disappointment, for I intend to keep my credit, and meddle no more, unless unthinking, as I really

did then, and occasion no discord between us. Any partiality for that country you have discharged sufficiently long since, and the time is come to do the like to this we at present live in. That there is a more sure abiding one, is the believing Christian's comfort, and to attain that grace, our daily endeavour; and those that seek shall find in due time: it is a blessing worthy the waiting for, (&c.)

Lady Anne Harvey* writes to me from Bath that there was, at one o'clock at night, an earthquake which lasted a minute, but thankful she is she was asleep; it was about ten days past.

I am, my lord, ever the same.

19 June.

CLVII.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

WHEN I scribble to Lord Galway, I consider very little what I put down, as I am secure, by God's grace, never to forfeit your love and esteem; and till I do that, have no fear I shall lose them: in that point my mind is at ease. I exceedingly desire your body were so; but the providences permitted by Almighty God can never be hurtful to his faithful servants, although painful. Alas! what are days, months, or years, (to his elected) to a happy eternity! In such a thought your soul and heart may rejoice I verily believe; and so believe, as to desire I may find grace, as I believe

* Daughter of Lady Russell's sister Montague. She was married first to Alexander Popham, Esq. and afterwards to Lieutenant General Harvey.

you will do in the great day when the sentence shall be pronounced.

I can truly grieve at the uneasiness in our court, which is all I will say, or can indeed for them. I have inquired from Dr. Sloane how the prince is this day? He says, in a way to do well. I trust, in the mercy of our God, all our divisions shall be so with time. As I conclude you do not want my reports, so I enlarge not upon them; but take my way to Lady Essex*, where all must be hushed. She is a good woman, yet not without a but; and where is her that is not? Let every one look into his own heart. I like to scribble longer, but want of daylight at home, and disappointment abroad, make it convenient to sign, as I most sincerely do, affectionate to your service in every respect.

December 12.

CLVIII.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

It is to divert my own thoughts rather than yours I take a pen, for as to reports, or rather unpleasing truths, I let them pass. The king and the good princess met as she was going or coming back from her dying child. Her conduct I hear none condemn; but who is there that never was faulty, or takes not a wrong step? My very long acquaintance, Lady Essex,

* Widow of Arthur, Earl of Essex. Her daughter married the Earl of Carlisle.

is no longer in this world, but not to be lamented in relation to herself, being certainly sincerely devout in those points we ought to make our biggest care. She has done, I believe, prudently for her daughter, as circumstances stand. There is nothing delays Miss Hoskins changing her name, but the act of parliament, which now is thought necessary in all cases almost*.

Evening is creeping upon me, by a grandchild, who was willing to take her dinner with me, her sister having taken physic, and she not loving a boiled chicken. To-morrow your health will not be omitted, daughter Devon and Mr. Charlton being to dine here; as I hope to do with yourself at Rookley, and also at Old Stratton, where you will be kindly welcome, as I am entirely assured I shall be at your Rookley. God, for the good you do to mankind, grant you some easy years, to do good upon earth, before you change for a happy eternity. So does desire and pray, Lord Galway's truly affectionate cousin, and faithfully such, to gratify to the utmost of her ability.

February 13.

The two last letters appear, by the largeness of the text, to have been written without spectacles, as Lady Russell was sometimes accustomed to do in extreme old age.—Lady Russell died Sept. 29, 1723, in her 87th year.

* The 4th year of George I. an act for settling the estates of the most noble William Duke of Devonshire, and William Cavendish, commonly called Marquis of Hartington, son and heir apparent of the said duke, on the marriage of the said Marquis of Hartington, with Catharine Hoskins, spinster, only child of John Hoskins, Esq. deceased.

COURAGE AND MILDNESS EXEMPLIFIED.

The following relation I had from my Lady Russell, in Southampton House (now Bedford House), where the accident happened. Her ladyship's own words, to the best of my remembrance, were these :

“ As I was reading in my closet, the door being bolted, on a sudden the candle and candlestick jumped off the table, a hissing fire ran on the floor, and after a short time left some paper in a flame, which with my foot I put into the chimney, to prevent mischief; then sat down in the dark to consider whence this event could come. I knew my door and windows were fast, and there was no way open into the closet but by the chimney; and that something should come down there, and strike my candle off the table in that strange manner, I believed impossible. After I had wearied myself with thinking to no purpose, I rang my bell: the servant in waiting, when I told him what had happened, begged pardon for having by mistake given me a candle, with a gunpowder squib in it, which was intended to make sport among the fellow servants on a rejoicing day*.”

Her ladyship bade him not be troubled at the matter, for she had no other concern about it than that of not finding out the cause.

THO. SELWOOD.

* In the reign of King William III.

CHAPTER A

The following is a list of the names of the persons who were present at the meeting of the committee on the 1st of January 1841. The names are arranged in alphabetical order. The names of the persons who were present at the meeting of the committee on the 1st of January 1841 are as follows: Mr. A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z. The names of the persons who were present at the meeting of the committee on the 1st of January 1841 are as follows: Mr. A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.

The names of the persons who were present at the meeting of the committee on the 1st of January 1841 are as follows: Mr. A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.

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 C. & C. WHITTINGHAM, Chiswick.

Russell, Rachel,

The letters of Lady Rachel Russell from the original at Woburn Abbey

Bd.: 2

London (1825)

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